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Algeria

Islamic Salvation Front leader Hachani and eight employees of the movement's newspaper were arrested and will face Defense Ministry charges of inciting the Army to mutiny, Algiers radio reported. The governor of Algiers banned all gatherings near mosques, the radio continued. As for foreign relations, the chairman of the Higher State Council and a French diplomat discussed bilateral ties, according to the radio, which also reported on an EL-MOUDJAHID story regarding an Iranian plan to overthrow the government and those of other Maghreb states.

Iran

The first vice president rejected charges of interference in Algerian affairs, IRNA reported, while a Tehran radio commentary noted the Algerian Higher State Council's "illegitimacy." IRNA rejected a Voice of America report that Hashemi-Rafsanjani ordered Armed Forces personnel to stop chanting anti-American slogans.

Israel

The National Religious Party will support Shamir in the 27 January Knesset no-confidence vote, while the Tzomet movement will abstain, Jerusalem radio reported. Opposing sides released differing data on construction in the territories: The Peace Now movement's data were reported by Jerusalem radio, while the main settlers organization's statistics were reported by HA'ARETZ. Shamir's remarks on the need to "build and develop everywhere" were reported by Jerusalem radio, while Ari'el Sharon told Tel Aviv radio that reports such as Peace Now's constitute "snitching." The police minister told HA'ARETZ said Shamir will be able to reach a "quiet agreement" with the United States regarding a settlement freeze; he later denied making the remarks, Jerusalem television reported.

Libya

The industry minister told the UN Security Council (UNSC) that it does not have jurisdiction in the Lockerbie investigation, JANA reported. A Foreign Liaison Bureau statement on UNSC Resolution 731 said the country condemns "terrorism of all forms and shapes, including state terrorism," and "announces once again its complete readiness to cooperate with any international efforts" to determine the truth about Lockerbie, the agency continued. Responding to a British paper's report on "Russian nuclear scientists," a statement issued by the People's Committee for Health and reported by JANA maintained that the 11 people in question are eye specialists on a visit from a Ukraine institute.

Syria

The information minister said the country will not attend the Moscow multilaterals unless "steps are taken to prove that Israel will withdraw from the occupied territories," MENA disclosed, while an AL-THAWRAH article reported by Damascus radio said that attending the talks will only "encourage the enemy."

Iraq

"Highlights" of Saddam's talk with children were transmitted by INA. The agency reported about the reconstruction of a floating oil terminal and international telephone service, and the resumption of domestic airplane service. The agency also transmitted the final statement of the Popular World Islamic Conference. Elsewhere, a World Islamic Conference official termed the Baghdad conference "illegal," Kuwait radio reported.

Palestinian, Inter-Arab Affairs

Yasir 'Arafat's visit to Cairo, during which he conferred with the Egyptian foreign minister about the peace process and the Moscow multilaterals, was reported by MENA and Cairo television. In a message to Mubarak, 'Arafat appealed for assistance in representing Palestinians inside and outside the West Bank at the Moscow talks, the agency added. 'Arafat and the Iraqi and Syrian foreign ministers were among those arriving in Morocco for meetings of the Jerusalem Committee, regional media reported.

Morocco

The foreign minister termed the European Parliament's rejection of the country's financial agreement with the EEC as "inadmissible and unacceptable," MAP reported.

India

The envoy to the United Nations said the country will support a UN resolution on Libya, according to Delhi radio, which also cited the external affairs minister's remarks that Delhi "will surely review its relations with Tel Aviv" if Middle East peace talks show positive results.

Pakistan

Through unofficial channels, Israel has communicated its desire for an unpublicized meeting between the two countries in the United States, according to THE NEWS, which added that diplomats are studying the advance with "extreme seriousness;" the Foreign Office denies the report, the paper continued.

Afghanistan

The Foreign Ministry welcomed efforts by Willy Brandt to convene an intra-Afghan gathering in Bonn, Kabul radio reported.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Palestinian Delegate on Moscow Multilaterals

JN2201184592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1610 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Telephone interview with Ghassan al-Khatib, Palestinian delegate to the Washington peace talks, by Sa'id Mu'addi on 22 January—recorded]

[Text] [Mu'addi] Mr. Ghassan al-Khatib, what is the Palestinian side's decision regarding participation in multilateral negotiations in Moscow?

[Al-Khatib] So far, the Palestinian leadership has made no decision regarding participation or nonparticipation in Moscow. This is because contacts are continuing along two lines. The first line of contacts is being carried out with the one who invited—the United States. Dialogue with it is continuing on the bases and conditions of Palestinian participation. The second line of contacts is Palestinian-Arab. It deals with Arab performance and coordination in general at this conference. These contacts will culminate in the 24 January meeting of all Arab foreign ministers that has been called for by King Hassan of Morocco. In light of these contacts and the contacts with the United States, a decision will be issued by the Palestinian leadership.

[Mu'addi] But, Mr. Ghassan, today's reports say that Jordan agreed to participate in the negotiations in Moscow.

[Al-Khatib] Yes, that is right. Jordan has agreed. Syria and Lebanon will decline to attend.

[Mu'addi] Is there not coordination between the Jordanian and Palestinian sides?

[Al-Khatib] Yes, there is coordination, but Jordan is an independent state, and so is the Palestinian side, which has an independent leadership. There might be different interpretations. At any rate, there is an understanding on the Jordanian part concerning the peculiarity of the Palestinian situation and, consequently, the peculiarity of the Palestinian position. Different positions do not mean disagreement, rather a difference in circumstances and the way such circumstances are treated.

[Mu'addi] What prevents the Palestinians from participating in these negotiations?

[Al-Khatib] There are two types of conditions. The first is related to the conditions of the invitation. The U.S. side is trying to confine Palestinian representation this time as well to representatives from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. This is although the multilateral conference will discuss issues of interest to the Palestinians abroad. Therefore, we are trying to promote the representation of the Palestinian side to include Palestinians abroad. Some good results in this respect are likely. The second obstacle is Arab coordination. The Palestinian side is not interested in attending such a conference without a minimum level of Arab coordination so that we can be able to guarantee that no agreements are reached before the bilateral negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis achieve reasonable progress.

[Mu'addi] What about the bilateral negotiations? When and where will they be resumed?

[Al-Khatib] The bilateral negotiations will be resumed on 10 February. No venue has been agreed upon, however, because the Israelis and the Arab delegations disagreed on the venue of the next meeting. It seems that the cosponsors will propose a compromise venue this time too.

[Mu'addi] If you participate in the multilateral negotiations, will there be a change in the composition of the Palestinian side?

[Al-Khatib] If the Palestinians take part in the multilaterals, Palestinian participation, most probably, will be through different people. No decision, however, has been made yet regarding those who will represent the Palestinians in the multilaterals.

[Mu'addi] Thank you, Mr. Ghassan al-Khatib, member of the Palestinian negotiating side.

[Al-Khatib] Thank you.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Jerusalem Committee Leaders Arrive in Morocco

PLO's 'Arafat, Delegation Arrive

LD2301001992 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the State of Palestine, arrived today in Morocco leading an important delegation which includes [words indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Foreign Minister Arrives

JN2301091392 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0830 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] Casablanca, 23 Jan (INA)—[Iraqi] Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn arrived in Casablanca at dawn today on a visit of several days to Morocco.

An INA correspondent in Rabat said the minister will participate in the meetings of the Jerusalem Committee, which is chaired by King Hassan II of Morocco. The meetings are scheduled to open later today. The minister will also participate in the meeting of the Arab foreign ministers, which is due to take place on Friday [24 January].

Syria's al-Shar' Arrives

JN2201185192 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1815 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Rabat—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' arrived in Morocco this evening to head Syria's delegation to the Jerusalem Committee meeting scheduled for tomorrow, Thursday, in Marrakech.

Al-Shar' will also take part in the meeting of Arab foreign ministers to be held on Friday upon Syria's request.

He was received at Marrakech Airport by Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali, senior Moroccan Foreign Ministry officials, and Syrian Ambassador to Morocco 'Ali Hasan. [passage omitted]

Al-Shar', PLO's Qaddumi Confer

JN2301002292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] Marrakech—[Syrian] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met with PLO Political Department Chief Faruq Qaddumi in Marrakech last night. The meeting was attended by Syrian Ambassador 'Ali Hasan and the PLO representative in Morocco. The two sides exchanged views on topics to be discussed by the Jerusalem Committee meeting, scheduled to open today, Thursday, and about the topics on the agenda of the Arab foreign ministers meeting.

They also discussed the long-term negative consequences of participation in the multilateral negotiations in Moscow, especially in the light of the joint evaluation of the outcome of the bilateral talks in Washington, and their failure to achieve any substantial progress thanks to Israel's intransigence and antagonism toward a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

Islamic Affairs

World Islamic Conference Denounces Baghdad Meeting

NC2001185692 Kuwait Radio Kuwait in Arabic 1700 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Dr. Muhammad Ma'ruf al-Dawalabi, chairman of the Executive Committee of the World Islamic Conference, has issued a statement stressing the (?illegality) of the so-called Popular World Islamic Conference being held in Baghdad. He said the Baghdad conference does not represent the World Islamic Conference, and he called the conference illegal.

The statement said that the Iraqi regime continues to exploit Islamic slogans to gain support for its wrongdoing and demands. This aggressive regime has called for an Islamic conference which is currently being held in Baghdad. The Iraqi regime [words indistinct] in the Popular Islamic conference. Iraq exploited the name of this conference during the Gulf crisis without the authority of conference Chairman Field Marshal 'Abd-al-Rahman Siwar-al-Dhahab or Executive Committee Chairman al-Dawalabi.

The dubious conference held by the Iraqi regime in Baghdad under the name of Islam must be boycotted and invalidated because it aims to cover up the... [30-second break in line] Iraq's ruler against the Kurds as documents prove that the Iraqi regime's agents have brutally tortured tens of thousands of Kurds [words indistinct], killing the victims after torturing them.

2. The conference is being held on the first anniversary of the war to liberate Kuwait, a war ignited by the Iraqi regime when it occupied Kuwait [words indistinct], destroyed its infrastructure, and prepared to commit aggression against the Gulf countries.

3. The conference is being held in conditions when the Iraqi people's tragedy has reached its limit. The people's freedoms are being repressed, their dignity violated. They are deprived of food, medicine, shelter, and other services.

Despite all this, the [words indistinct] aggressive (?regime) continues to exploit Islam and hold conferences. [words indistinct] this suspicious conference. We advise the brothers whom the Iraqi regime has (?dared) to invite not to go to Baghdad and attend the conference of support for tyranny, injustice, and wrongdoing.

Islamic-Arab Conference Issues Statement on Algeria

EA1801102292 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1040 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Khartoum, 17th January (SUNA)—The Islamic-Arab popular conference has expressed its support for the struggle of the Algerian people and backing for the legitimacy decision. It appealed to the Arab and Muslim peoples to stand in support of justice, constitutionalism, freedom, and Islam and to emulate the Algerian march. In a statement issued here yesterday, the conference said that it considered what happened in Algeria to be a victory for one of the noble peoples of the Islamic-Arab ummah. The measures which followed the election results, however, were an open attempt to thwart the will of the Algerian people. The statement added: Democracy has been killed in its infancy, democracy which the hypocrites have long been shouting about when it became a road for Islam to government. The statement stressed that today Islam and its destiny had become, through the strength and awakening of the believers, unstoppable.

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Arrives in Cairo for High-Level Talks

Received by Foreign Minister Musa

NC2201115992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jan (MENA)—Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat arrived in Cairo this afternoon on a visit to Egypt, during which he will hold talks with senior officials.

He was received at the airport by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first under secretary at the Foreign Ministry and director of the president's office for political affairs.

'Arafat on 'Secret' U.S.-Israeli Deal

NC2201182292 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jan (MENA)—Following his talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today, Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat stated that he sent a message to President Husni Mubarak asking for Egypt's assistance, in view of its international influence, to represent the Palestinian people both inside and outside the occupied territories during the Middle East multilateral talks in Moscow.

On the expected new elections in Israel, 'Arafat said that the call for early elections is part of the Israeli ploy to shirk the peace negotiations.

Regarding the U.S. letter of assurances, 'Arafat said that it states that Palestinians from outside the occupied territories and from Jerusalem can participate in the second stage of negotiations. As for the multilateral talks, which form the third and final stage of negotiations, he said it is natural that Palestinians from inside and outside the occupied territories should participate in them.

'Arafat added that the Moscow peace conference will discuss the final status of the region. He noted that it is impermissible to exclude 6.5 million Palestinians, whom the PLO represents, from participating in the formulation of this final status.

Asked if the Arabs are making any efforts to postpone the U.S. loan guarantees to Israel, the Palestinian president said a secret operation—now being discussed—is under way to conclude an Israeli-U.S. deal by which Israel would receive $2 billion as a first installment. He said this deal is designed to silence the Arabs and satisfy Israel at the same time, noting that Israel will be given the entire sum over a period of five years, during which it will swallow up the Arab territories and establish new settlements.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said he had told 'Arafat that President Husni Mubarak welcomes his brief visit to Egypt.

He said during their long and extensive discussion, they reviewed the situation in the region, the hopes for the peace process, and the difficulties facing it.

He said the talks with the Palestinian president were useful.

Departs After 'Detailed' Talks

NC2201170592 Cairo Egyptian Space Channel in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat arrived this afternoon on a visit to Cairo, during which he will hold talks with ranking officials.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first Foreign Ministry under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, received him at the airport.

[Begin recording] ['Arafat] I am happy to take this opportunity while passing through to meet with my brothers Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz and to hold in-depth discussions on the peace steps, whether regarding the recent events in Washington or future steps, proceeding from the principle of constant and joint coordination among us—Palestinians, Egyptians, and all other groups. I have sent a message through my brothers to President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to help us, in view of Egypt's international importance and its true and precise representation of the Palestinian people—those inside and outside [the occupied territories]—in the multilateral peace talks and regarding Jerusalem.

[Musa] We extended President Husni Mubarak's welcome to Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] during his short visit here. During this visit we held long and detailed talks regarding the situation in the region and the peace process, as well as the hopes pinned on it and the difficulties facing it. The talks undoubtedly have been very beneficial in exchanging viewpoints regarding future stages of the peace process. [end recording]

[Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1620 GMT on 22 January reports that 'Arafat departed Cairo "this evening following a several-hour visit.

["He held talks for one and a half hours at Cairo Airport with 'Amr Musa and Dr. Usamah al-Baz. Sa'id Kamal, Palestinian ambassador to Egypt, and Zuhdi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative in Cairo, also attended the meeting."]

Egypt's Musa Discusses Moscow Talks With Envoy

NC2001131792 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1157 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Cairo, 20 Jan (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa received Sa'id Kamal, Palestian ambassador to Egypt, today.

The Palestinian ambassador said that he and Musa reviewed regional developments.

He said Musa handed over a message to the Palestinian leadership dealing with Egyptian achievements and efforts regarding the upcoming multilateral negotiations in Moscow on 28 and 29 January, clarifying the importance of the Palestinian presence at these negotiations where the future of the region, especially economic and security considerations, will be discussed.

He added that the refugee issue will also be discussed, thanks primarily to Egypt's efforts to include it on the agenda.

The Palestinian ambassador said he and Musa evaluated the stages of bilateral talks, concluding that it was not a bad start. Everyone is now watching attempts being

made in Israel in the name of democracy to bring down the Israeli Government so that Yitzhaq Shamir can avoid making decisions on the bilateral talks and linking them to the Israeli settlement policy.

Regarding the Palestinian delegation's participation in the multilateral talks, Kamal pointed out that two days ago he conveyed a message to President Husni Mubarak from Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat on the Palestinian stand. He said that Egypt has tried to solve some of the problems that might block the Palestinian side from attending the multilateral negotiations.

Concluding his statement, Kamal affirmed the importance of Arab coordination and discussion before the Moscow negotiations. He affirmed that Palestinians, who always note the importance of coordination and Arab negotiations, will benefit from this coordination.

Editorial: Peace Process Hinges on Loan Issue

TA2201193392 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic 19 Jan 92 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "The Loan Guarantees...No or Yes, This Is the Decisive Factor"]

[Text] The deadline for the postponement of the $10 billion U.S. loan guarantees to Israel ends in five days. The Bush administration postponed the request for those guarantees in September because it was eager to launch the first necessary step toward peace negotiations in the region. But this step, which so far has resulted in the Madrid conference and the three negotiating rounds in Washington over the past four months, will now be threatened with a serious jolt should Washington finally decide to grant these guarantees to the Israeli Government at a time when "no fundamental" progress has been achieved in all those rounds.

Nabil Sha'th, who received a U.S. entry visa during the last days of the third round of negotiations, believes that the fate of the entire peace process hinges on the U.S. stance toward these guarantees. This in fact refers to the question of the ongoing Jewish settlement in our occupied land. As long as Shamir's government does not halt this settlement and the U.S. Administration does not put pressure on it, there will indeed be no peace. It is common knowledge that this government's request for U.S. guarantees is aimed at continuing its ongoing settlement plans and projects.

On the other hand, it is also well known that the U.S. Administration considers settlement activity an obstacle to peace. Will Washington adhere to this publicized consideration and act to support and implement it seriously by denying those loan guarantees to the Israeli Government? Or, will it do the opposite? Which will mean striking at the peace process during this critical phase.

According to Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, we have reached "a collision point," not a deadlock. Consequently, the United States, the first sponsor of the peace conference, is called upon to make a fundamental decision this time on this issue. We believe that it is an issue that will decide the path to the assumed fourth round in February and to the multilateral meeting in Moscow on 28 and 29 January.

The United States should be aware of all these calculations, because they are the decisive factor in assessing and evaluating the efforts of the past four months and the aspirations and hopes for peace in the coming months.

Six-Point Palestinian Autonomy Document Outlined

NC2201171392 Paris AFP in English 1653 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] Cairo, Jan 22 (AFP) - Palestinian negotiators earlier this month handed Israeli interlocutors an outline for an interim self-governing body on the occupied territories which would have jurisdiction over "land, subsoil and residents" according to a text received Wednesday by AFP.

The document, made available here by Palestinian sources, is entitled "Outline of a Model of the Palestinian Interim Self-Governing Authority (PISGA)" and dated January 14.

It was reportedly submitted to Israeli negotiators by the Palestinian team which took part earlier this month in the third round of Arab-Israeli peace talks in Washington.

"The Palestinian side believes that this outline ... could be the basis for negotiations during this phase (of bilateral talks)," the document said.

"The purpose of the interim self-government arrangements is to ensure the peaceful and orderly transfer of authority from Israel to PISGA and to create the proper conditions for sustainable negotiations on the final status of the occupied Palestinian territory," it added.

The United States and Russia, as co-sponsors of the peace talks, are calling for a five-year interim period for the occupied territories and negotiations on a final status for the West Bank and Gaza Strip to begin on the third year.

Israel has bowed to this call but specifically said it would support autonomy for the people not the land.

But the Palestinian position is diametrically opposed to the Israeli one and the six-point document received here reinforces that stance.

"The jurisdiction of the PISGA shall encompass all these territories (Palestinian land occupied by Israel since 1967), the land, natural resources and water, the subsoil and their territorial sea and airspace.

"Its jurisdiction shall also extend to all the Palestinian inhabitants of these territories," the document said.

The document also outlined the future structure of PISGA: a legislative assembly composed of 180 freely elected representatives from the occupied territories, a 20-member executive council and a judiciary body.

It also called for "the transfer of jurisdiction, powers and responsibilities exercised by Israeli military or civilian authorities ... to the PISGA and the simultaneous withdrawal of the Israeli military government and its civilian administration."

The document stressed that the Israeli Armed Forces should "withdraw from all populated areas immediately before" legislative elections take place followed by a gradual pullout "by the time PISGA is inaugurated."

It also appealed for security measures during the transitional period "with the assistance of United Nations peace-keeping forces."

Bir Zayt Professor on Opposition to Peace Talks

TA220116192 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in English 20 Jan 92 pp 8, 9

[Interview with Dr. Riyad al-Maliki, professor at Bir Zayt University, by Khalid Abu-'Akir; date and place not given]

[Text] Q: How do you evaluate the role of the Palestinian opposition at this point?

A: I refuse to label every nationalist Palestinian in the PLO as "the opposition." We are still part of the Palestinian family and infrastructure. The moment we participate in democratic elections, and we lose, then I will accept the term of "the opposition."

What is happening today is that there are different political opinions on the current stage. Since it is only a difference in the points of view among Palestinians, there have not been any attempts to form a program or a new front to resist the present (peace) process.

There's still only a state of discussion and attempts to gain popular support for this point of view or that. When the negotiations develop to the point where they subject us to autonomy, there will be a need for different stance to resist this policy called autonomy.

Q: You said you have a different opinion, but you are giving the current peace talks a chance while attacking it simultaneously. How do you reconcile this apparent contradiction?

A: We announce our opposition to this process from the start, and we requested that the delegation not attend any sessions. At this stage we request that the delegation withdraw. Every stage has its own measure. The important thing is that confrontation and fighting do not replace democratic discussion, national unity and intifada achievements.

What's important is focusing on the population, explaining what autonomy is and what will result from these negotiations.

Of course, the moment the (Palestinian) delegation offers any concessions—procedural or substantive—we will organize our stance and deal with it suitably.

Q: You talk about concessions while the Palestinian delegation confirms its allegiance to basic Palestinian principles, so what concessions are you talking about?

A: Simply accepting to participate in this process according to Israeli and American conditions will end up with concessions, regardless of the delegation's allegations that it is loyal to national principles. The delegation has no means to get out of this mess. There is an enormous amount of pressure on it to continue and reach the American-Israeli solution, outlined in the U.S. letter of assurances to the Palestinian side.

The delegation possesses no weapon or defense from the pressures, and will surely work hard through the negotiations. These negotiations were arranged by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, and he will justify all concessions by either devaluating them or calling them successes.

I do not think the Palestinian people will accept this after they lost hope in what is called "American justice" or "unbiased American arbitration" years ago.

Q: What encourages the delegation to continue is the popular support it found, and continues to find, in the occupied territories. Don't you see that this support is enough motivation to continue in the peace process you reject?

A: I'm doubtful that there is any popular support for the delegation or the peace process in general. If we look at the events that followed the Madrid and Washington conferences, we find the absence of support for this process.

We are convinced that the Palestinian masses realize the danger of what's happening in Washington, therefore, the majority rejects it either publicly or silently. We will soon hear the voices of the masses against this process and its results.

We should not look at the ability of these masses with impunity. We also should not mislead these masses and talk about unreal possibilities.

In the end, the public is the judge, and the Palestinian people with their daily activities are the judge. The (Palestinians') activities are the true survey of their mood towards this process.

Q: If the public is the judge, why don't you give it a chance to choose instead of subjecting it to your opinions?

A: We are always, and still are, for the public's right to choose and with their right to participate in the decision-making process. We were always against eliminating the role of the masses, any power we have is from the masses and with their support.

We are willing to allow this democratic game to continue as long as everyone commits himself to freedom of opinion and decision, as long as all information and truths are provided to the people, so they can make their decisions freely and objectively.

If we reach that point, I think we will have achieved a great victory on the way to a democratic state in its full meaning.

Q: What about attempts to impose general strikes to promote your political position?

A: When some political forces decided to go to the negotiations, they knew full well that their decision was dangerous to the masses and to national unity. Even so, they proceeded, ignoring these facts. I think any political force has the right to promote its opinions and present what it sees fit, as long as it is acceptable. If we commit ourselves to democratic principles from the start, we can avoid many of the problems that could arise. Q: The general strike called for by a few political parties to protest the beginning of the third round of negotiations a few days ago was not met with much enthusiasm. Don't you interpret this to mean that the Palestinian delegation has popular support?

A: The powers that called for this strike did not enforce it using strength, unlike other elements that worked hard to break the strike.

Anyway, strikes along, whether they succeed or fail, are not intended to show popular support or lack thereof.

If the situation was like you stated it, where are the massive "welcome home festivities" for the Palestinian delegation that returned from Washington last time?

Furthermore, there are contradictions in the news coverage of the strike. Some claimed the strike failed totally or partially, and some claimed it succeeded totally or partially. The question remains: who judged what happened and what are their intentions?

Q: But it is easy to measure how much response any call (for strike) gets as long as the people do what the people want. Don't you see that attempts to force political opinions upon people harms the general interest and national unity?

A: The political opinion has already been forced upon us when a certain Palestinian party decided to go to the negotiations, ignoring the differences of opinion among the Palestinians. It knew the results of its decision would reach the whole Palestinian population, even though it did not return to the people and ask them what they want—it did not get their approval before participating in this process.

The violation occurred when this party entered what is called the peace process. In any case, we can find out the peoples' mood by doing a poll or even a survey. But we cannot claim to represent the people and have a majority while we ignore popular opinion and attend negotiations in the name of the Palestinian people as a whole, these negotiations will affect us all, supporters and opponents.

Q: The party you are talking about holds a majority, whether in institutions or among the people. Also, the decision to participate was made by the highest Palestinian authority. Don't you see that this participation is legitimate?

A: First of all, this party practices hegemony over Palestinian institutions, not by a democratically-chosen majority as much as by attempts to control these institutions because of the overlap between this party and the PLO.

Secondly, claiming that this party represents the majority needs proof. I hope it can be proven in honest, democratic elections without pressure or force, and representation can be calculated according to percentages.

Regarding the PLO, there have been calls to instill democratic reforms for decades in its institutions and agencies so that the organization can represent the people's desires democratically. If these reforms occur, we could say that its decisions are a direct reflection of public opinion and a result of the support we give its institutions and agencies, inside and outside the occupied homeland.

Q: Are you insinuating that the decisions made by the Palestine National Council, for example, are illegitimate?

A: I didn't say that. But everyone knows that the composition of the PNC is not democratic, elected or representative of our Palestinian people as a whole. In addition, the PNC, in its last convention, agreed upon a set of decisions that would be Palestinian preconditions to entering any negotiations process. It would have been enough for this council to stick to its own decisions and work on their execution. Any deviation from its decisions are a deviation from its legitimacy. The best thing to do is judge the PNC on this issue.

Q: You reject the peace process and invite the delegation to withdraw from it. What alternative are you promoting?

A: The same alternative that has been around for a long time. The alternative that the PNC decided on in 1988, when it announced its commitment to an international conference with full powers and under the auspices of the United Nations. All permanent members would attend, in addition to the PLO as an independent delegation. International protection would be granted to the occupied lands between the interim phase and an independent state.

This is the alternative, and was the official Palestinian position. Any deviations are deviations from the official Palestinian position, unless (the PNC) officially backs down from this position and surrenders it.

Q: Since this alternative is not available at the present time, what should the Palestinians do?

A: What is required is continuous demands to execute the first alternative, since going to Washington doesn't give a chance for an international conference, and it means that the international conference has been given up, literally.

Q: Does this mean a continuation of the status quo, occupation, until the world changes again?

A: We know that the Palestinian, Arab and world situations are not benefitting the Palestinian side. We also

know that any changes that occur in the coming three years have to be an improvement, in favor of the Palestinian position.

On the contrary, our negotiating delegation has not provided any progress since it began this process last March. It didn't stop settlements. It didn't stop land confiscation, it didn't stop house demolitions, tree uprooting, and last of all, deportations.

So the situation hasn't improved with the negotiations; the opposite has happened. We know that, every month, Palestinian lands are being confiscated more than those confiscated every year before the beginning of negotiations. The negotiations only accelerated Israel's attempts to impose its own facts on the occupied Palestinian lands.

Q: So you see no choice for the Palestinians except to be steadfast?

A: Naturally, I think that the steadfastness of the Palestinian people is fundamental to confront this (Israeli) plan. The unity of this nation is very important, and should be protected. The achievements of the intifada should also be protected, because of all it represents to our Palestinian people.

Our attendance of negotiations gives a Palestinian cover for the normalization of Arab-Israeli relations. The deeper we go in this process, the more excuses we give the Arabs to create a new situation to the detriment of the Palestinian issue and its support.

Q: But the Palestinians were able to influence the Arab positions, for example, when the Arab delegations abstained from heading to Washington in solidarity with the Palestinian stance after the Israeli deportation decision. Doesn't the Palestinian presence in the negotiations regulate the Arab delegations?

A: I don't think so, because the Palestinian delegation will not be present in the Israeli-Syrian negotiations, or the Israeli- Lebanese negotiations, where Syrian and Lebanese interests will be held above all other considerations. Besides, the Palestinian delegation is in a difficult negotiating position with the Israelis, and this will not help to influence pressure on the Arabs.

The Arab delegations' positions are a reflection of their governments, and we must not forget the positions of those governments regarding the Palestinian issue in the past years. And how can the Palestinians control what will happen in the multilateral talks, with the participation of the Gulf states, which not only boycott the Palestinian delegation, but also the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

So what (Palestinian) pressures are we talking about? I think the equation is reversed, and we will see the effects of Arab pressure on the Palestinian side, in addition to American and other pressure, to offer more concessions. We will see the reflections of the positions of these states on the Palestinian issue and its support.

Q: Let us return to the situation in the occupied territories. You talk about protecting the achievements of the intifada: How do you see the intifada now?

A: We must admit that the intifada is in a difficult position. Our situation has changed after four years since its beginning, justifying an honest correctional movement for this attempt (the intifada) so that we can benefit from it and continue it. The demand to protect its achievements means preserving the population's strive for freedom and independence.

Q: Do you think the people are able to continue the intifada?

A: I think our people have the overwhelming strength needed to continue, as long as support and energy is funneled in this channel. If there are sincere intentions to protect and revive the intifada, there is no problem.

I refuse the contention that the people are tired from the intifada, and I say yes, the people are tired from occupation, but they continue with what they have. The people announce this daily, through their actions everywhere.

Q: How do you see the future of Palestinian national unity in the event that Palestinian participation continues in the negotiations?

A: It must be made known that we are for national unity and for preserving this unity at any cost. It is our priority, but this will not stop us from continuously evaluating the positive and negative elements of this unity so that we can get rid of the negative and emphasize the positive. For sure, discussions and debates will help us avoid everything which might split this unity.

We hope we never have to choose anything besides national unity.

PLO Official Urges Normalized Ties With Lebanon

NC2301095192 Paris AFP in English 0937 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] Beirut, Jan 23 (AFP)—A senior official of the Palestine Liberation Organization on Thursday called for normalisation of PLO-Lebanese relations and said Syria should join them in forging a military strategy against Israel.

Shafiq al-Hut, in an interview with AFP, also stressed that a common position by Syria, Lebanon and the PLO on next week's multilateral talks on the Middle East would encourage a dialogue between the organisation and Beirut.

Al-Hut, a member of the PLO executive committee and head of the organisation's Beirut bureau until it was driven out by Israel in 1982, discussed the same issues earlier this month discussed with Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi.

The Lebanese Government has been reluctant to authorize the return of PLO fighters so as to convince Israel it has no reason to maintain troops in southern Lebanon.

"We must guarantee decent living conditions for the 360,000- 460,000 Palestinians who live in Lebanon and allow them to organise the political struggle (against Israel) to ensure that their presence in this country is only temporary," al-Hut said.

He said the PLO was "resolutely hostile" to Palestinians' staying permanently in Lebanon.

He said the Palestinians were hoping to start talks with the Lebanese authorities, notably on reopening PLO political offices in Beirut, but he acknowledged that the "political timing is not right."

The PLO was driven out of Lebanon by the Israeli invasion of 1982 and has since set up headquarters in Tunisia.

In October PLO chief Yasir 'Arafat restored ties with Syria after an eight-year break in what al-Hut said was "a necessary step" for a resumption of PLO activities in Lebanon, where Damascus deploys some 35,000 troops.

Al-Hut also suggested that Lebanon, Syria and the PLO should forge a common "military strategy to define the armed struggle against Israel" from Lebanese territories.

Meanwhile Syria and Lebanon have said they will boycott the Moscow forum—the third stage of a U.S.- and Russian-sponsored peace initiative—while the Palestinians have not yet announced whether they will attend the conference.

Palestinian Democratic Rally Established

LD2201095292 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] The Jerusalem AL-QUDS reported that the day before yesterday a constituent statement was issued by the Palestinian Democratic Rally [al-Tajamm'u al-Dimuqrati al-Filastini], which is an independent organization that takes the Palestinian cause, the right to self-determination, and the establishing of the independent state led by the PLO, the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, as its major national objectives, and strives to achieve them. The constituent statement made clear that the Democratic Rally is a Palestinian democratic framework in which ideas are articulated with their distinctive vision of the reality on the basis of attachment to the Palestinian fundamentals and work for the elimination of occupation, the consolidation of democracy and the political, social, economic, and cultural life of the Palestinian man, with the aim of reaching an independent homeland that achieves social justice for all its groups and individuals.

Algeria

Government Arrests FIS Leader Hachani

LD2201191192 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 1800 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Report by France-Inter special envoy Laurence Simon from Algiers]

[Text] At 1630 [1530 GMT] Abdelkader Hachani was still free. I saw him leaving the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] office in the center of Algiers. He had just declared that he did not recognize any of the measures taken by the new authorities because he considered them to be illegal.

The latest measures were imposed during the day and banned gatherings near mosques, as well as partisan preaching in the mosques. The government and the authorities have never hidden the fact that they would carry out the arrests as this is officially a question of reinforcing the measures that ensure public order. The authorities clearly could no longer bear Hachani's words being spread in Arabic on foreign wavelengths or have him leading meetings and assemblies such as the one bringing together the FIS representatives elected in the first round of elections, which of course has been canceled by the new authorities.

All the FIS heads are in prison, Madani and Belhadj since June 1991 and Hachani since this evening. The FIS has been decapitated. It is not yet known how the rank and file will react. Up to now they had responded to the order for calm by this young leader from the most moderate wing of the party.

FIS Official Calls for 'Calm'

LD2301000392 Paris France-Inter Radio Network in French 2300 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Excerpts] The situation is calm in Algiers after the announcement of the arrest of Abdelkader Hachani, the leader of the Islamic Salvation Front executive bureau. [passage omitted] Hachani's arrest was followed by the arrest of several journalists of the daily EL-KHABAR. The newspaper has recently published some communiques of the FIS. [passage omitted] I invite you to listen to the reaction of Fouad Dellici, director of the FIS newspaper EL-FOURKAN, who was interviewed by our correspondent in Algiers, Laurent Simon:

[Begin recording] [Dellici] We were not surprised. We were expecting this arrest, but we are not going to make a fuss. They are perhaps trying to provoke us, but we will always remain alert. We will ask our militants to remain calm in order to face up politically. We are still standing, and we will prove it.

[Simon] With what, for instance?

[Dellici] We will prove it throught political action. Our action in the field will never stop. I think that if they have removed the top leadership of the FIS, if they manage to remove the leadership of the FIS—and this is uncertain because there is a whole organization there which has been structured—but if they manage to arrest all its leaders, I think that this will be very serious for Algeria, because the people would not have a leadership which could hold them back.

[Simon] Are you afraid of an explosion of violence, an individual or personal violence?

[Dellici] Not at all, because the FIS militants are disciplined. It is discipline by consent, because Islam teaches them to be organized and disciplined. You must have noticed it in all the demonstrations that we have organized. [end recording]

8 Journalists Arrested; Medani To Be Retried

LD2301015592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0100 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] In addition to the APS report on the arrest of some journalists from the newspaper EL-KHABAR following the paper's publication of a statement by FIS leader Abdelkader Hachani in which he called on the National People's Army to mutiny, the latest reports say that the matter affects eight journalists, headed by the paper's director, Mohamed Sellami; the chief editor, the deputy chief editor, and five other journalists.

A source close to the Blida military court said that the investigation into the case of Abbasi Medani and others detained with him since June in the Blida military prison following the disturbances resulting from the political strike launched by the FIS will not be resumed from the beginning.

To recall, the last hearing of the chamber of the prosecution at the military court caused some misunderstanding which led some national newspapers to say that the case of the seven FIS leaders who are currently in custody will be reexamined and from the beginning.

Hachani, Journalists To Face Civil Court

LD2201224492 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] The national gendarmerie command reports that Abdelkader Hachani, head of the Islamic Salvation Front provisional executive bureau, and officials of the Arabic EL-KHABAR daily newspaper will be brought before a civil court following the case submitted by the Ministry of Defense against them in line with the orders of the Algiers judicial body.

According to the statement, Abdelkader Hachani called on the elements of the National People's Army to mutiny, a matter which invites penalties under the Algerian penal code.

The national gendarmerie statement said that with regard to the detention of the EL-KHABAR officials, the measure came after the paper printed Hachani's call for the elements of the national army to mutiny, along with

the paper's printing another malicious report which said that the republican guard commander had resigned, a matter which is punishable under the provisions of the information law and the penal code, the statement stated.

Gatherings Near Mosques Banned

LD2201190092 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] A decree from the Algiers governor this evening bans all gatherings near mosques.

Article One of this decree stipulates that the areas around mosques and the roads and streets adjacent to them cannot under any circumstances be used as an extension of the mosques themselves. Any manifestation around mosques is absolutely prohibited, whatever the day or the hour. The use of public streets, sidewalks, roads, public squares, spaces, and slip roads is exclusively reserved for the traffic of pedestrians and vehicles. Any request to occupy public places should be submitted for the prior authorization of the governor.

Finally, any contravention of the provisions of the present decree will be taken note of and dealt with in conformity with the law.

Higher State Council To Guard Public Order

LD2201195992 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] The Council of Ministers met today, 22 January, under Mohamed Boudiaf, chairman of the Higher State Council. Opening the session, the Higher State Council chairman made a statement in which he recalled the elements on which the work of the Higher State Council is based, in particular the maintenance of national unity, Islam as a basic element of the Algerian personality, and the achievement of real democracy. Within this context the Higher State Council will take all necessary measures to guarantee public order and respect for the sovereignty of the law. The Higher State Council chairman called on government members to show devotion, with a spirit of struggle, in seeking solutions to the problems from which citizens suffer, and to take the necessary measures to confront unemployment and the scarcity of many basic commodities, inflation, and the shortage of housing. For this purpose, the Higher State Council chairman urged that sincerity, trust, and solidarity be the guide for the work of all government members.

Following this statement, the prime minister presented a survey of the government's activities since the convening of the last Council of Ministers meeting. Within this context, the prime minister reviewed the total condition of the country's economic and financial state and the extent of the progress in the economic revival program, in accordance with the decision of the Higher State Council. Also, the Council of Ministers recorded the measures decided by the government to deal with the grave shortages, from the human and material aspects, which had harmed the functioning of mosques and had led to the deterioration, in many forms, of the sacred function of the houses of God. The Council of Ministers intends, in this context, to put an end to the injection of party politics in mosques, schools, and public administration.

The Council urged in particular the restoration of the function of the mosque as a distinguished place for the worship of God, and the unification of the ranks of the nation. In addition, the Council of Ministers also recorded the measures taken by the government to restore a regular supply of basic commodities to the national market as soon as possible.

The Higher State Council chairman concluded the work of the Council of Ministers and confirmed that despite the state of the country, which calls for concern, Algeria enjoys human capabilities and material resources likely to enable it to successfully meet the challenge. He also emphasized the gravity of the tasks assigned to officials at all levels, a matter which dictates that they should set an example with their work, fairness, competence, and behavior.

Council To 'Remedy' Administration of Mosques

LD2201112692 Algiers APS in English 1017 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] 22/01/92 (APS)—The Council of Government [as heard] met Tuesday here under the chairmanship of the head of government, Sid Ahmed Ghozali. Recalling the statement of the Higher State Committee [as received] inspired from the preservation of the national unity and the holy principles of Islam, the head of government asked the members of his government to continue their tasks in this frame and in order to realize the assigned objectives, mainly in the field of the state and persons' security and in the field of taking in charge of the essential concerns and needs of citizens. In this context the Council of Government listened to an expose from the minister of religious affairs related to the management of mosques. He exposed the deficiencies which characterized this sector since the independence, mainly in the field of training of scholars, imams and managers, these deficiences that led to a deterioration of the function of these houses of God.

After a report of the minister of religious affairs, the Council of Government adopted a short and mid run recovery program so as to remedy the serious human and human lacunae which affect the functioning of the mosques. The Council of Government also debated the appropriate actions to be undertaken in order to apply in the mosques the strict regulations so as to encourage the educative and religious practices and ban any partisan activity.

The Council further listened to a report of the minister delegate to trade on the supplies of the country. This report which dealt with all the operations of foreign trade, put the stress on the supply of food and medicines. It is underlined that all the necessary measures have been taken mainly concerning the holy month of Ramadan

(month of feast). The debate showed a number of parameters and behaviours which constitute obstacles for the good carrying out of operations and do not enable to optimize the resources that are available or put at the disposal of operators. Mechanisms have been set up in order to analyze and rapidly overcome these obstacles. Two ministerial groups that will be supervised by the head of government have been formed so as to assure a vigilant follow up of supply problems on the one hand and of financing problems on the other hand because of: the limited financial liquidities; the notable deficiencies in the management of available credit lines; harmful practices in the field of external payments. In this context, the head of government noted that the agents depending on state institutions, wherever act they in administration or in economic fields. [sentence as received] Their imperious duty is to serve nationals and it falls within the state representatives' duties to guarantee that. All neglections, overtakings, irregularities and unhealthy practices must be sanctioned within a complete strictness.

Jobs, Economy 'Current' Priority

LD2101200792 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] The cabinet met today under Mr. Sid Ahmed Ghozali to study an urgent plan to give an impetus to and revive the national economy. The official government spokesman said that the creation of jobs is a current government priority.

The same source confirmed that the possibility of a ministerial reshuffle, reported recently by press sources, was not among the priorities of the government's program.

Ghozali Notes 'Constitutional Vacuum'

LD2301141892 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali held a meeting yesterday evening with representatives of the national press at which he largely concentrated on the government's urgent economic program for dealing with the new situation.

The program's priorities include the alleviation of the crisis, particularly in light of the retraction and procrastination shown by foreign banks.

With regard to the constitutionality of the recent developments that have taken place in the country, Ghozali said that a constitutional vacuum had occurred and that it was necessary to fill it. This was an interpretation on our part. He asked whether standing with tied hands in the face of this vacuum would have been a constitutional act.

As for the experiences of recent years, the prime minister said that the democracy we had was not completely genuine nor any more genuine than the economic reforms about which there was a great deal of talk but which led in the end to nothing but the destruction of the economy.

Further on Foreign Reaction to Developments

Ghozali Views French, Iranian Actions

LD2101141692 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Algeria has asked for clarifications concerning statements made by some French officials about Algeria. Also, Algeria has evidence which proves Iran's intervention in our internal affairs.

Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali said this in a statement to the newspaper LE LIBRE BELGIQUE and Belgian radio and television. Mr. Ghozali added that we have evidence of Iran's participation in illegal acts carried out during and after the elections, and that this participation was not confined to financial contributions. The prime minister emphasized that Algerians reject any interference in our internal affairs.

With regard to the European position, the prime minister said that the Europeans should know and understand that the problems facing this country are economic and that if they want democracy to succeed in this country they should express their solidarity with Algeria in the economic and financial field. He said that our desire for democracy does not aim to please the Europeans but rather comes from our conviction that it is essential to secure our future.

Ghozali Criticizes External 'Interference'

LD2101215792 Algiers International Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Prime Minister Sid Ahmed Ghozali gave an interview to three Belgian information media—a newspaper, a radio station, and a TV station—in which he said: If there is anything that is totally unacceptable to the Algerians, it is interference. This is known to all, from Tehran to Paris. On this matter in particular the Algerians are united as one.

Mr. Ghozali said in this interview that in any case more than 80 percent of the Algerians did not vote for the abolition of democracy, and he added: We want to secure all the conditions for the onset of authentic democracy. Democracy has not been eliminated merely because what happened in Algeria in the name of democracy was not democracy.

As for the reverberations abroad of the situation in Algeria, Mr. Ghozali said: Trust must be placed in Algeria. If there is anything that is unacceptable to Algerians—or rather totally unacceptable to Algerians—it is interference, and this is known to all.

Brahimi Says Iran Exceeds 'Bounds'

NC2101191692 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1845 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Paris, 21 Jan (MENA)—Algerian Foreign Minister Lakhdar Brahimi has stated that his government recalled its

ambassador to Tehran because Iranian officials have exceeded the bounds with their irresponsible statements.

In an exclusive interview broadcast by the Paris-based Arabic Radio al-Sharq today, Brahimi said: Our relations with Iran were good, and we believe that we never failed the authorities in that country. He added that the future of Algerian-Iranian relations depends on the Iranians themselves and on whether they are interested in continuing and developing these relations.

Replying to a question about the continued Iranian media campaign against Algeria and whether the Algerian Government will sever relations as a result, Brahimi said: Let us wait and see.

To another question about the Arab reaction to the events in Algeria, he said that Algeria has received cables from a number of countries including Morocco, Tunisia, Mauritania, Libya, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain. As for the European reaction, he said that Europe generally was reserved in its comments, as it believes what is taking place in Algeria is an internal affair and it therefore cannot comment on it.

Replying to another question, Brahimi emphasized that Algeria's foreign policy is based on principles that have existed since the days of the revolution and which adapt to world developments.

He said that Chadli Bendjedid was not forced to resign and added that his resignation was completely voluntary.

As for Algeria's participation in the multilateral peace talks in Moscow, Lakhdar Brahimi said that Algeria has received an invitation to attend these talks but has not decided whether to do so, because what has taken place between the Arabs and Israelis "has so far been disappointing."

Tehran 'Strike at Stability' Seen

LD2101135192 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] The newspaper EL-MOUDJAHID today published the details of a plan prepared by the ayatollahs in Iran to strike at stability in Algeria and overthrow the government system, and to later extend the plot to include the other Arab Maghreb countries.

EL-MOUDJAHID says that a top-secret meeting recently took place in the Sayyidah Zaynab Mosque in Damascus, the Syrian capital, in which many persons of various nationalities—Iranians, Saudis, Lebanese, and Sudanese—participated to discuss the future of the Islamic movement in the Arab world on the eve of the direction taken by events in Algeria. The meeting was chaired by a prominent Iranian clergyman representing his government.

During the meeting a seven-point plan was laid down defining ways to assist the fundamentalists in Algeria. This was submitted to the Iranian Government for approval. The plan included: collecting money in mosques on the pretext of helping the Algerians; convincing businessmen in the Gulf to invest part of their wealth in Morocco and Tunisia to help the fundamentalist Islamic movements; and expanding the area of operations of the Islamic movements' net to include West Europe, where fundamentalists would flee if they escaped.

Boudiaf Meets With French Envoy

LD2101195392 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1800 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] As you already know, our ambassadors to Iran and France have been recalled for consultations.

The Algerian ambassador to France was received today by Mr. Mohamed Boudiaf, president [as heard] of the Higher State Council, and discussed with him the state of Algerian-French relations.

Mohamed Boudiaf has received some ostensible support from Mr. Mohamed Yahiaoui of the FLN [National Liberation Front] Political Bureau. The latter may resign from this post during the FLN Central Committee meeting scheduled for 25 January.

FLN Central Committee To Meet To Decide Policy

LD2201120392 Algiers APS in Arabic 0930 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Algiers, 22 Jan (APS)—The Central Committee of the National Liberation Front [FLN] is to hold an emergency session next Saturday to discuss the political developments that the country has been witnessing since the president resigned his post, and to take clear stands in relation to these developments.

According to a statement that FLN Secretary General Abdelhamid Mehri made to APS, the FLN's Political Bureau has not yet taken any position with regard to these events, nor has it joined any political formation. Rather, it has left the matter to the Central Committee, which has the authority to take stands with regard to the present situation. A number of Central Committee members and groups of FLN activists have expressed their reaction to recent statements by the secretary general on the decision to establish the Higher State Council and his meetings with leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front and the Socialist Forces Front. Mr. Mehri is of the opinion that these were individual reactions; the Political Bureau is answerable to all members of the Central Committee as a body, not to every member of the committee, he said. [passage omitted].

Finally, Mr. Mehri pointed out that his party has not yet held any contacts with the Higher State Council. [passage omitted]

Official Criticizes 'Wrong Judgment'

LD2201172992 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 1700 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] Mr. Ribah Bitat, member of the Central Committee of the National Liberation Front and former speaker of the National People's Assembly, has expressed his disapproval of the attitude of those, I quote, in the leadership of the FLN who pretend to claim constitutional legality to pass a historically wrong judgment, end quote.

In a statement, Mr. Bitat said he believes that it is not late denials and hasty decisions to convene the FLN Central Committee, which will hide the dimension of the commitment of those who have deliberately engaged themselves in retrograde practices of clan and regime in-fighting, end quote. [sentence as heard]

Egypt

Musa Returns From Damascus Visit, Reviews Talks

NC1801190692 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned to Cairo from Syria this evening following a visit of several hours.

Musa told our correspondent that his talks focused on a number of issues of mutual interest, particularly the Arab stand, regional developments, and the peace process.

Minister Musa said he conveyed a message from President Mubarak to President al-Asad, adding that he held talks on the situation in the Arab world and the peace process. President Hafiz al-Asad, Musa said, gave him with a message for President Mubarak which he will convey to the president tonight while reporting on the results of his talks in Syria.

Musa said he discussed issues pertaining to the multilateral talks scheduled to be held in Moscow on 28 January. He said the two countries' stand on these talks was reviewed and that the Syrian stand on participation in these talks will be left to the Syrians to decide. He emphasized, however, that Egypt will take part in the talks.

Commenting on the U.S. guarantees demanded by Israel for its settlement policy, Musa said following up the U.S. guarantees issue is important because it is a very serious issue. He said Israel's persistence in or ability to continue building settlements will ruin the peace process and shatter hopes of peace.

Mubarak Views Price Increases, Regional Issues

NC2201120492 Cairo MAYU in Arabic 20 Jan 92 p 1

[Text] President Husni Mubarak has emphasized that he never approves an increase in any commodity's price unless it is inevitable. Our goal is to serve the people's interest, he said, adding: We are working for future generations, who must enjoy a stable life. This is our basic responsibility, he said.

President Mubarak told Chief Editor "Samir Rajab" that he has refused to authorize an increase in gasoline prices, to spare limited-income groups. The president said: When I am forced to increase a commodity's price I keep thinking about it and put myself in the citizen's place. Thus, I have given instructions to prevent this increase.

The president said: By the end of June the price of gasoline and another petroleum products will be raised. There will then, he asserted, be no other increases.

Mubarak pointed out that revenues from the sale of petroleum locally amount to 4.3 billion Egyptian pounds. If exported, this output would mean revenues of $4.5 billion (nearly 16 billion pounds). The difference, almost 11.7 billion pounds, goes to "subsidies", he remarked.

Increasing gasoline prices can help correct some customary behavior. A citizen could stop using his car for "short distances", save part of his expenses, ease traffic jams, and make his car last longer, he said.

Mubarak explained that the Soviet Union had to double gasoline prices five times, with the current price being ten times more than it had been. The people there have difficulty in obtaining gasoline. They must stand in long lines. The country shifted from communism to the free-market system abruptly, thereby triggering such events.

Thank God, said the president, that we in Egypt are much better off than others as commodities are available on the market. The increase is reasonable compared to that in other countries, and it was introduced gradually rather than quickly. He added that the state is careful to raise wages on a scientific and practical basis to curb inflation.

The president told Samir Rajab that current projects—for the housing sector, telephones, drinking water, sanitary drainage, roads, electricity networks, and land reclamation—are for the sake of the young, because these offer job opportunities.

These state-endorsed projects, other investment, and private sector projects can, said the president, positively contribute to solving the unemployment problem provided that our youth free themselves of their "obsession" with finding government jobs. He explained that combining a government job with another in the private sector has created a type of "masked" unemployment.

The president reiterated that he is closely following developments in Algeria, the fraternal country whose people are linked to us by brotherly Arab and Islamic bonds. We wish them stability, he said.

Touching on the peace negotiations, the president said that he has sent Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa to Damascus, where he met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad to coordinate stands on the multilateral talks between the Arabs and Israel.

Mubarak said: Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad will soon come to Egypt to resume talks on this and other Arab and foreign issues of mutual interest, as well as Egyptian-Syrian relations.

Libya

Official States Case Before UN Lockerbie Council

LD2201140492 Tripoli JANA in English 1251 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] New York, Jan 22 (JANA)—Libyan [Strategic] Industry Minister Jadallah al-Talhi expressed satisfaction before the UN Security Council over the convening Tuesday of a meeting to clear out suspicion vis-a-vis Libya and recalled the accusations against his country regarding the Panam and UTA planes affairs. In an address before the adoption by the council of a resolution on the affair, al-Talhi said the enquiry conducted in this respect did not bring about any evidence that could have shored up the charges against Libya highlighting the Western moves in this respect do not abide by law rules. He recalled that Maltese authorities have enquired on the fact and revealed the accusations were not justified stressing that his country in spite of the economic war and military action threat against Libya took measures on the judiciary level, but the Libyan enquiry team was denied access to the issue files.

He argued the Security Council was not empowered to debate the affairs and has created a precedent adding the adoption of the resolution was wrong especially that it is based on accusations and that the enquiry in this respect has not been yet completed.

Statement Condemns 'All' Terrorism

LD2201194392 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1848 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Jan, JANA—The People's External Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau issued this evening a statement on UN Security Council Resolution 731. It said: The People's Committee of the People's External Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau declares the following: First, the Great Jamahiriyah emphasizes its permanent and firm stand condemning terrorism of all forms and shapes, including state terrorism. Second, the Great Jamahiriyah expresses its denunciation of the actions that led to the crash of civilian planes, and in particular the Libyan Arab, Korean, Iranian, Indian, Japanese, Italian, French, and U.S. aircraft in which innocent civilians fell victim. Third, the Great Jamahiriyah finds it strange to be accused of noncooperation and strongly regrets the overlooking of the effective efforts it had made for the sake of this, and it announces once again its complete readiness to cooperate with any international efforts liable to lead to unearthing the truth concerning the crash of Pan Am flight 103 and UTA 772/1. Fourth, the Great Jamahiriyah confirms its complete readiness to cooperate with the UN secretary general to attain success in his task, a matter which consolidates respect for the UN Charter and international law.

Attorney Asserts Pan Am Suspects' Innocence

NC2201225992 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2155 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jan (MENA)—Counselor Ibrahim al-Ghuwayl, the lawyer defending the two Libyans accused of downing the Pan Am aircraft over Lockerbie, Scotland in December 1988, has denied that the two Libyans participated in that incident or the one involving the French plane that crashed in the Niger desert in 1989.

At a news conference he held in Cairo this evening, al-Ghuwayl noted that the two accused—al-Amin Khalifah Fuhaymah and 'Abd-al-Basit al-Miqrahi—were in Libya in December 1988, according to their passports and according to the passport department's lists.

Al-Ghuwayl said that contacts are under way with U.S., French, and British lawyers to bring a lawsuit before the judiciary of these states to refute the charges that these states have leveled against Libya. He described their accusations as mere conclusions which do not amount to conclusive evidence.

Al-Ghuwayl, who is in Cairo to participate in Egyptian-Libyan Solidarity Week, which began on Tuesday, declared that only the Libyan judiciary is qualified to hear the case according to Libyan law and the Montreal Convention. He emphasized that the International Court of Justice is not qualified to consider the case and that the reason for referring the case to it is to determine where the trial should be held should a dispute arise in the interpretation of the Montreal Convention.

Al-Ghuwayl said the Libyan judiciary has invited Western judges to attend the trial of the two defendants in Libya. He added that these judges or their representatives have the right to deputize the Libyan investigator to ask questions. He indicated that the Libyan judiciary does not favor anyone and that if the two defendants are convicted, the verdict will be carried out after the necessary legal measures are taken against them.

Al-Ghuwayl denounced yesterday's UN Security Council resolution on this case, describing it as "contrary to Article 36 of the UN Charter" because the Security Council does not have the right to issue resolutions and could have referred the case to the International Court of Justice.

Commenting on the measures he has taken to end the remand of the two defendants, al-Ghuwayl said that he has asked the Libyan investigative body to expedite investigating two defendants so that they can return to their normal lives.

'Russian Nuclear Scientists' Actually Eye Doctors

LD2201114692 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1050 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] Tripoli, 22 Jan (JANA)—A communique issued by the General People's Committee for Health in the Great Jamahiriyah emphasized the falsity of the allegations made by the British newspaper SUNDAY EXPRESS claiming that Libya has concluded contracts with Russian nuclear scientists involving astronomical amounts of money. The communique says that the scientists mentioned by the British paper are members of a medical team of eye specialists consisting of 11 male and female doctors which arrived in the Jamahiriyah in the middle of December 1991, in accordance with an agreement between the General People's Committee for Health and the Filatov Institute in the Republic of Ukraine.

The communique further says that this team has started its work at the Tripoli eye clinic, where it has diagnosed cases of disease and performed operations, all of which are recorded in the hospital register. The communique expressed surprise over these allegations spread by the British paper, all the more so because the Jamahiriyah's television has recently conducted interviews with the medical team in question inside treatment rooms in Tripoli.

Reportage on Visit of Chadian Prime Minister

Received by al-Qadhdhafi

LD1901192792 Tripoli JANA in English 1648 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] Tripoli, Ay Annar [January] 19, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The leader of the revolution this afternoon received the Chadian Prime Minister Jean Alingue Bawoyeu and the delegation in his company who are on a visit to Great Jamahiriyah to present the thanks and appreciation of the Chadian people to Great Jamahiriyah for the assistance the latter provided for Chad in health fields.

The Chadian prime minister expressed the support of and solidarity of the Chadian people with the people of Great Jamahiriyah in countering American and British fabricated allegations.

The prime minister conveyed to the leader of the revolution the thanks and appreciation of the President of Chad Idriss Mahamat Deby and the Chadian people for the assistance provided by Great Jamahiriyah to Chad in the health sphere in the total elimination of cholera.

Holds Working Sessions, Departs

AB2101102592 Ndjamena Radiodiffusion Nationale Tchadienne in French 1900 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] Chadian Prime Minister Jean Alingue Bawoyeu arrived yesterday in the Libyan capital at the head of a Chadian delegation. As he did in Yaounde and Abuja, he will brief the Libyan authorities on the recent events that took place in the west of our country. According to our special correspondent Eve Ngarde, the Chadian prime minister was received upon his arrival by his Libyan counterpart, Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah. Our special correspondent sent us this report this morning:

[Begin Ngarde recording] The rousing welcome given the delegation at the airport (?can hardly go unnoticed)—a welcome which made some of the delegation say that we are again witnessing the very touching moments reminiscent of the Abuja trip. Jean Alingue Bawoyeu was met upon his arrival by the secretary of the General People's Committee, the equivalent of the prime minister in our country.

After the welcoming ceremony, which included the national anthem, military music, and an inspection of the honor guard, the Chadian delegation was led to the beachside Mohari Hotel.

An hour later, the two sides held an informal working session. Jean Alingue Bawoyeu briefed the Libyan delegation, led by Abu-Zayd 'Umar Durdah, on the recent developments in the lake region. The two delegations also exchanged views on various international topics.

This morning a second working session was held. It was led for the Chadian side by Foreign Minister Mahamat Saleh Ahmat and for the Libyan side by Justice Secretary Ibrahim Bakkar. After these sessions Jean Alingue Bawoyeu and his delegation will probably be received by Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi in Tripoli. [end recording]

[Ndjamena Radiodiffusion Nationale Tchadienne in French at 0530 GMT on 20 January adds "Prime Minister Jean Alingue Bawoyeu returned to Ndjamena yesterday evening from Tripoli."]

Joint Statement Issued

LD2001182592 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] A joint statement was issued today in Tripoli and Ndjamena in the wake of the visit by Chadian Prime Minister Alingue Bawoyeu to the Great Jamahiriyah. It reads:

The prime minister of Chad, as entrusted by President Mahamat Idriss Deby and the National Salvation Movement and the Chadian people, has expressed thanks and gratitude to the brother leader of the revolution and the Libyan Arab people for the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah's constant support and aid to Chad, particularly in the face of the recent plot against the security and stability aspired to by the Chadian people, and said that it was because of this support and aid that the Chadian people have succeeded in defeating and repelling the aggressors.

In their joint statement, the two sides expressed their pleasure at the constant development of their close relations and fruitful cooperation for the good of the two fraternal peoples and their hopes.

In this context, the Libyan Arab-Chadian Joint Committee was asked to meet in the shortest possible time to draw up executive formulas for what has been agreed upon in the field of bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

As for the regrettable accidents which led to the crashes of the Pan Am and UTA aircraft, the two sides reiterate their principled and constant stand against terrorism in all its forms.

The two sides denounced the use of the methods of force, threats, and economic sanctions and called for adherence to the UN Charter and respect for international law.

The Chadian side praised the wisdom and civilized manner with which the Great Jamahiriyah faced the threats to the security of its territory and the safety of its citizens.

The Chadian side reiterated its complete stand alongside the people of the Great Jamahiriyah.

At the end of his visit the Chadian guest expressed his thanks and admiration for the leader of the Great 1 September Revolution and the people of the Great Jamahiriyah for the great welcome and hospitality shown to him and members of his delegation.

Alingue addressed an invitation to the brother secretary of the General People's Committee to visit the Republic of Chad at a date to be set later.

Morocco

Minister Filali Criticizes EC's 'Interference'

LD1901215492 Rabat MAP in Arabic 1600 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Rabat, 19 Jan (MAP)—Mr. Abdellatif Filali, minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, has described the European Parliament's rejection of the financial agreement between Morocco and the EEC as "inadmissible and unacceptable."

In a press statement in Rabat yesterday, Mr. Filali added: "One could say that the decision adopted by the European Parliament is a scandal representing open and blatant interference in the domestic affairs of states." He recalled the recent visit to Morocco by a delegation from the EEC Parliament, where it made contacts with Moroccan political officials and representatives of nongovernmental organizations and organizations involved with human rights. He said: "During my meeting with them, the members of this delegation, especially Mr. Cheysson, expressed their satisfaction with the results of their visit to Morocco. Furthermore, they expressed their admiration for Morocco's progress in terms of the parliament and the national press, and they were convinced by the explanations they received concerning the Saharan problem."

The minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation pointed out "the ignorance of the European MP's [members of Parliament] on all aspects of the question of the Western Sahara." These MP's "did not trouble themselves to take a look at the Security Council resolution on the Sahara issued about 15 days ago, on 31 December, after the council gave its support to the report submitted to it by the UN secretary general."

He affirmed that these European MP's, "had they seen the Security Council resolution, would not have found in it any expression condemning Morocco's position on the question of the Western Sahara, or condemning the obstacles that some claim Morocco is putting in the way of the work of Minurso [UN Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara] in the region." Mr. Filali said that on the contrary, the secretary general has expressed satisfaction over his relations with Morocco's authorities since the deployment of Minurso in the region.

As for the entrenching of the so-called international borders, Mr. Abdellatif Filali emphasized that the European Parliament gave itself an international prerogative which it had not been given by any other party. He noted that the institution did not have any special prerogatives concerning European issues, so then how could it have prerogatives at an international level?

He said: "I do not understand on what basis, by what right, or according to what principle the European Parliament gives itself rights which neither the United Nations, the Security Council, nor the International Court of Justice gave it, especially as there is no relationship between the principle of respecting international borders and the Saharan problem." He recalled in this respect that the Security Council, the UN General Assembly, and all international bodies had accepted Morocco's request to hold a referendum on self-determination in the Sahara. [passage omitted]

Mr. Filali noted with surprise the incongruous stands of the EC and the Council of Ministers, on the one hand, and that of the European Parliament on the other where "so-called actions occurring outside the domain of protocols" are concerned. These protocols concern the sum of $2 billion. He said: "We thought that the idea of cooperation with the Arab Maghreb forms one of the bases of the EC policy, but the European Parliament's vote on this decision simply nullifies that policy".

Mr. Filali expressed surprise that the decision rejected the two protocols with Morocco and Syria while it agreed to protocols with Egypt, Lebanon, Tunisia, and Algeria, and he remarked that the latter was subjected to the same conditions as Morocco, which is to say that compliance with the conditions of the decision was imposed on Algeria. [passage omitted]

Filali emphasized that those protocols were of the usual kind and that it was assumed that they would not raise any problems of a technical or, more to the point, political nature. He recalled that in the EC that law would require the assent of the European Parliament.

What took place, however, raised astonishment and amazement. He enquired how some of the cooperation protocols with some countries had been ratified while others rejected.

Filali enquired how cooperation with the Arab Maghreb could be discussed while it had been marginalized by that decision. He noted that in that case the Arab Maghreb would become "a purely imaginary Arab Maghreb" in some people's eyes, one which would necessarily and surely be far away from the Mediterranean. [passage omitted]

Filali said: We have recorded the question and we shall see in the future how to organize our relations with Europe, which, in all cases, must be under conditions that do not harm our sacred principles, our national unity, and our dignity through inappropriate and unacceptable acts of interference.

As for a question about the relationship between some European members of Parliament and the official policies of the European governments in connection with the Sahara problem, Mr. Abdellatif Filali pointed out that Morocco's relations with the European governments, the Council of Ministers, and the European committee do not correspond with its relations with the European Parliament, and he noted that this noncorrespondence "is not Morocco's problem, but rather a European-European problem, and it is incumbent on the Europeans themselves to deal with that". [passage omitted]

Mr. Filali pointed out that the gross total of these commercial loans amounts to $250 million spread over five years. He emphasized that the rejection of this protocol does not raise any problem for Morocco because it can get this from other sources. [passage omitted]

UN Envoy Comments on Lockerbie-UTA Resolution

LD2201142392 Rabat MAP in English 1247 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] New York, Jan 22 (MAP)—Morocco voiced 'desire to see the actions undertaken by the UN Security Council remain conform to international law principles', Moroccan permanent delegate to the UNO [United Nations Organization] Ahmed Sanoussi said before the council before the adoption of the resolution on the Panam and UTA planes affairs.

Sanoussi added in his address she also would like not to associate the Security Council with a precedent which may prove dangerous or regrettable in the future, explaining Morocco has always condemned terrorism and never allowed any act that is related to terrorism. He explained the stand of Morocco on the issue stressing that it 'is keen on securing that the envisaged recommendations respect international legality.'

Tunisia

ANC's Mandela Says Pretoria 'Can't Be Trusted'

MB1801160492 Umtata Capital Radio in English 1500 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Nelson Mandela says F.W. de Klerk's government can't be trusted to arrange the transition to majority rule. Mandela had been addressing a crowd of about 1,000 people in Tunisia on his three-day visit to the North African country.

He says he can't rely on F.W. de Klerk's government to supervise the transition process in South Africa because they are the very same people who brought about apartheid.

The ANC [African National Congress] president has also accused the government of acting under the cover of Inkatha, and has blamed De Klerk for the clashes which have left 11,000 people dead over the past few years.

Mandela has heaped praise on Tunisia's President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali for his support for democracy in South Africa. The two held talks earlier today.

Meets With President Ben Ali

LD2101100292 Tunis Tunisian Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] This afternoon President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali held a second round of talks with the African leader Nelson Mandela, chairman of the African National Congress, at Carthage Palace. The official spokesman of the presidency said that the head of state reaffirmed Tunisia's support for the struggle of the African National Congress and the Tunisian people's solidarity with the people of South Africa and their sympathy with it in achieving its goals of freedom, dignity, and equality.

The official spokesman added that the African leader expressed to his excellency the president his profound thanks and appreciation for the warm reception which he received from Tunisia and its president, and his great admiration for the achievements which are being made in it in all spheres. The struggler Nelson Mandela also praised the continued support which the combative march in South Africa receives, and he expressed his thanks and appreciation in particular for the initiative of his excellency the president, months after the 7 November change, in opening a bureau for the African National Congress in Tunisia. He also lauded Tunisia's initiative in welcoming some South African students to Tunisian universities and termed this to be a renewed embodiment of the bonds of brotherhood, struggle, and solidarity between the two peoples.

His excellency the president explained to his guest that what Tunisia does is motivated by its support for the struggle for freedom and equality, and by the inspiration of brotherhood between the Africans in the north and the south of the continent, thus affirming Tunisia's desire to boost African relations at the levels of countries, organizations, and parties to achieve the aims of the peoples of the continent in terms of progress, prosperity, and impregnability, and to promote the benefits of cooperation between the countries of the south.

Saddam Speaks to Children on War Anniversary

JN1801203292 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1748 GMT 18 Jan 92

[By Baydar al-Shams; "highlights" from President Saddam's chat with children; date and place not given]

[Text] Baghdad, 18 Jan (INA)—His excellency the leader president said: Many of our young and other ordinary members in our population fail to distinguish between the noise of enemy bombardment and the noise of our air defenses that were active in our skies.

—Many of our children said: We thought our artillery fire was fireworks like they used to set off on national and religious occasions.

—Some of the young children said they used to climb on the rooftops, undaunted by enemy aircraft, in order to watch the engagements between our air defenses and raiding aircraft.

—The young children who chatted with his excellency the leader president were unanimous that their fathers feared neither the war nor the aerial bombardment and that their mothers mostly kept their cool. Other mothers overcame fear with prayers and praying to God that He might grant victory to the nation and ward off the evil of its enemies.

—Few mothers did not reveal any fear; some of the children ascribed this to their mothers not being accustomed to such a thing. His excellency the president concurred, noting that the thrust of education in the rural areas was to instill in the children the habit of not being afraid of the dark, the sound of bullets, or thieves. This is in contrast to the practice of intimidating children in the urban areas. You therefore see the individual raised in the countryside being trained to not feel afraid since early childhood.

—His excellency the president related to the children how, when Marie Antoinette—wife of Louis XVI—heard the people taking to the streets with noisy demonstrations demanding bread, she asked why they did not have cake in the absence of bread. His excellency the president explained to the children the moral of this episode, saying: You see how some rulers do not care for their people, nor for what they eat.

—One of the children explained Bush's determination to see the blockade through as being the result of his failure in the first war and his inability to launch a new war.

—One of the children said: During the war they won over many friends. When his excellency the president asked whether this friendship survived the war, the child said "yes," and the president commended him.

—His excellency the president asked: Who are the traitors? The children answered: They are the agents, and when his excellency asked who the agents were, the children hastened to say that they were such people as Fahd and Husni Mubarak.

The leader president asked the children: What are the countries that launched the aggression? The children named the United States, Britain, France, and Germany.

The president said that Germany paid money to help the aggressors but its army did not participate in the war. In other words, he added, Germany paid money for the killers, just like those who pay money for professional killers to commit murder.

A child said that the Germans have hated the Zionists since World War I and World War II, but now they are frightened by the United States.

—The president asked the children whether they like Bush, adding, in fun, that the man is tall, elegant, and says in his speeches that he is not against the people of Iraq. The president asked: Is he sincere or a liar?

The children answered: He is a liar.

When the president asked for proof, a little girl said: He imposed a blockade against us and prevented the arrival of milk for the children and medicine for the sick. He is a liar. When he says he is not against the people of Iraq, he wants to fool humanity.

—The leader president asked one of the children who had been abroad about the opinion of his colleagues, the other children. The child said: We will win the war, and we have.

The leader president asked: How did we win the war? The child said: We were attacked by 33 states. Even the Egyptians attacked us. We stood fast, and we were alone. This means we won.

The president commented: It was Husni Mubarak, not the Egyptians, who attacked us.

—The president said: In the past they were beating strugglers of the Ba'th Party and sending them to jail so that they would abandon their ideology. The president asked: Who wins, the executioner or the struggler?

A child answered: The struggler, because he remains faithful. The president blessed this answer and said: They fought us to remove faith from our hearts, but they failed, and this means we won.

—A child said: The Arabs were supposed to stand with us.

The leader president said: The Arabs stand with you, son. Only a few rulers stand against you.

The leader president asked the children how they are doing under the blockade. They answered: We go to school, we play, we sometimes eat much and sometimes eat little. The leader president said: You should not each much, because God does not like extravagant people,

just as he does not like misers. Besides, too much food causes obesity, while little food makes one fit.

Former Intelligence Head Arrested; Coup Rumored

NC2201161392 Paris AFP in English 1600 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] Nicosia, Jan 22 (AFP)—The former head of Iraqi intelligence, Fadil al-Barraq, has been arrested by the authorities in Baghdad amid reports of a military coup, a key Iraqi opposition group announced Wednesday.

Al-Barraq was arrested along with the former director of his office as well as several senior Army officers, the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq (SAIRI) said in a statement received here by AFP.

The arrests took place in the "past two weeks ... after rumors of a military coup against (Iraqi President Saddam) Husayn," the statement said.

Al-Barraq, who was described as the former director of Iraqi public security, was appointed two years ago as Husayn's advisor on security matters.

Iraqi opposition groups have recently reported a string of attempts to topple Husayn.

Former Envoy Says Ba'th Members Oppose Saddam

NC1801093192 Paris AFP in English 0911 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Manama, Jan 18 (AFP)—An underground movement has been formed within the Iraqi Ba'th Party with the aim of toppling President Saddam Husayn, a former Iraqi ambassador said in an interview published Saturday.

The movement hopes to form a transitional government which will oversee free elections and ensure a peaceful transfer of power to the people's elected representatives, Arshad Tawfiq Isma'il told the London-based Arabic daily AL-HAYAH, which is also published here.

The ex-envoy to Madrid said the movement, which had the backing of a million members of the Ba'th Party, was also negotiating with Kurdish and Shiite opposition factions.

He did not say when the anti-Saddam group was formed or who its leaders were.

He said the Iraqi leader's removal "can only be done through internal action or a coup d'etat with army participation."

Isma'il resigned his post in March and settled in Saudi Arabia where he established contact with other opponents of the Iraqi Government.

Several Iraqi opposition movements announced in recent months attempted coups in Iraq and affirmed coordination of their efforts to overthrow Saddam Husayn.

Oil Exports Could Resume as Early as March

JN1801103692 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18 Jan 92 pp 1, 5

[By JORDAN TIMES staff reporter P.V. Vivekanand]

[Text] Amman—Contrary to published reports and notwithstanding reservations that Iraq might be engaged in a stalling effort, United Nations and Iraq officials reached key agreements on resuming Iraq's oil exports in talks earlier this month in Vienna and it is only a matter of procedures before Iraqi oil hits the market after an 18-month hiatus, according to informed sources.

"It is no longer a question of if Iraq will export oil but when," said one of the sources, who expected Iraqi oil flowing into the international market under U.N.-approved contracts from March.

Iraq was ostracised from the international oil market after the U.N. Security Council imposed unprecedented international sanctions against Baghdad after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait. The Jan. 7-9 Vienna discussions came after the council voted in September to allow a limited one-time sale of Iraqi oil to raise funds for war reparations, U.N. operations and food and medicine for the Iraqi people.

"The fine details have to be worked out, but in essence the Iraqis and U.N. officials reached several points of agreement on key issues in Vienna," according to the source, who, like other sources who spoke to the Jordan Times, preferred anonymity.

"Most of the issues raised in Vienna would be followed up and final agreements could be reached in the next round of talks next month," said the source. "One could say that there are two balls, one in the Iraqi court and the other in the U.N. court, and both could come together in February's talks."

Iraq, which ranks as the second country with the highest known reserves of oil, has said that it is in a position to export 1.2 million barrels per day (bpd) and to raise the capacity to two million in three to four months time. The pre-Gulf crisis Iraqi oil production was over three millions bpd. Most of the oil facilities in the country were heavily damaged in war but have been repaired to what experts describe as "primary levels" to meet the initial export target of 1.2 million bpd.

Among the major demands tabled by Iraq in the Vienna talks, headed by U.N. Ambassador 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari on the Iraqi side and U.N. Under-Secretary Kofi Annan for the world body, were a double-fold increase in the U.N.-set ceiling, free, round-the-clock access to all U.N. documents pertaining to the channelling of proceeds for Iraq's food and medicine needs and a free hand for Baghdad to determine which pipeline it wants to pump oil to loading terminals.

"It was agreed in Vienna that these demands would be closely studied by the United Nations Sanctions Committee, but the feeling was that they do not pose a major problem, except perhaps the quest to increase the allowed amount," another source said.

But Iraq's insistence on expanding the scope of bilateral agreements it might reach with buyers poses a key problem, the source admitted. "Their argument is that the international oil market is not an arena where you surface one day and disappear the next," he said.

"The Iraqis insisted that Iraq be allowed to enter long-term contracts beyond the six-months period set by under Resolution 706," he said. "Obviously, this is an area where one could expect vehement opposition from several members of the Security Council."

Although the source did not elaborate, it is known that the U.S. and Britain, the two key Security Council members who headed the anti-Iraq coalition in the Gulf War, consistently reject any moves which could signal a definite return of Iraq into the oil market while some of the key political objectives of the West remain unaccomplished.

The U.S. and Britain have affirmed that they would veto any step to "rehabilitate" Iraq as long as President Saddam Husayn remains in power.

Under Resolution 706, adopted in September amid international outcry over the suffering of the Iraqi people under the sanctions, Iraq can export $1.6 billion worth of oil through its twin pipelines through Turkish territory in six months. A special United Nations committee of experts has to approve every individual contract and the Sanctions Committee will control all proceeds.

Thirty per cent of all proceeds will be set aside for reparations to be paid to various parties who suffered from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. Another part—said to be between 15 and 20 per cent—will go to finance U.N. operations related to the terms of the ceasefire which ended the allied war against Iraq to liberate Kuwait in March last year, and the rest will be spent to buy food and medicine for the Iraqis.

Iraq has been refusing to export oil under the stringent U.N. measures outlined in Resolution 706 saying they constituted a violation of Iraqi sovereignty, but was also seeking to water them down.

There is also a feeling among some diplomats that the Iraqi move to open talks on the oil issue with the U.N. could be a stalling tactic pending success on securing funds from other sources.

"But the nature of the points raised by Iraq in Vienna indicates an acceptable level of seriousness in accepting the U.N. deal," said one of the sources.

On the practical side, Iraq's demands that it be allowed to use its own discretion to decide which pipeline to use for exporting oil is seen as its desire to use its Mina' al-Bakr and Khawr al-Amaya terminals in the Gulf in a bid to avoid the heavy transit charges that would have to be paid if it uses its pipeline through Turkey.

A proposal submitted to the U.N. by Iraq's rebel Kurds to exploit oil wells in their control in the north of the country to raise funds for the needs of the Kurdish population was "touched upon" during the Vienna discussions but "although the Iraqis made it a point to protest, they do not seem to believe that the proposal would get anywhere," said the source.

The source described the Kurdish proposal as "a crude outline of a still-born idea."

In any event, the source added, U.N. officials, "who appear to be more interested than Iraq in ensuring that the limited oil deal goes through," are now involved in efforts to renew the permission for another six months starting March—since the deadline stipulated in Resolution 706 runs out by then—and are exploring possibilities to increase the ceiling to a minimum of $2.4 billion as a compromise with the Iraqi-sought $3.2 billion.

The U.N. keenness in pressing ahead with the deal reflects the empty coffers of the world body to finance its ceasefire monitoring operations and the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction (a senior U.N. official said last week that the process of eliminating the Iraqi arsenal was being cut down as a result of lack of funds).

The U.N. does not foresee any objection in principle to Iraq's demand to use its Gulf ports rather than Turkish terminal in the Mediterranean as long as proper monitoring mechanisms could be set in place, according to reports from New York.

Another twin pipeline which runs through Saudi territory to the Red Sea port of Yanbu' also remains closed, but prospects of reopening them remain dim in view of the strained political relations between Riyadh and Baghdad in the wake of the invasion of Kuwait.

Senior Gulf diplomats were quoted as saying recently that the Saudi leadership was determined not to allow any resumption of Iraqi oil-pumping through the pipeline as long as President Saddam continued to rule Iraq.

In the meantime, moves by European Community (EC) member countries to unfreeze limited amounts of Iraqi bank accounts have gathered momentum, and this could give an additional element of confidence to the Iraqis in maintaining their firm position in the oil talks with the U.N., experts said.

"Iraq has been spending close to $200 million every month in purchasing essential food for its people since early 1991," said one expert. "As long as they (the Iraqi leadership) feel that they could continue to maintain this level for another six to nine months regardless of the source of funds, it is doubtful that Baghdad would be prone to make any concessions on the positions it stated in Vienna."

Among countries taking the lead in unfreezing Iraqi assets—left to the discretion of the individual governments concerned under Security Council Resolution 687 which set the formal terms for a ceasefire in the Gulf war—are Germany and Italy.

According to the expert, there is little chance that the world body can influence individual European decisions—Britain having unilaterally gone ahead and released part of Iraqi bank accounts in exchange for the release of a Briton held in Iraq—and withstand the mounting international pressure to ease the suffering of Iraqi people.

"So it would appear that the ball is more in Turtle Bay (where the U.N. is headquartered) than in Baghdad," he said.

War-Damaged Facilities Resume Operations

Al-Bakr Floating Oil Terminal Reopens

JN1701163692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1030 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Al-Basrah, 17 Jan (INA)—The al-Bakr floating oil port in al-Basrah Governorate, southern Iraq, located in the northern Arabian Gulf was opened yesterday after the completion of repair work on the fourth jetty, which was hit by the U.S. aggression.

Oil Minister Usamah al-Hiti said in a speech to mark the occasion that the port is now ready to receive tankers and load them with Iraqi crude. [passage omitted]

The first phase of the rehabilitation program called for bringing the fourth stage back to its former daily export capacity of 400,000 tons and laying two sea pipes 45 kms long and 48 knots ['uqdah] in diameter between al-Faw and the port. The repair plan also provided for the rehabilitation of loading arms, pipes, valves, electrical equipment, and the communication system between the port and oil tankers coming from high seas and neighboring ports.

Meanwhile, work is continuing on jetty No. 2, which it is hoped will be completed next month. [passage omitted]

Baghdad International Phone Links Restored

JN1801142492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1345 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 18 Jan (INA)—The al-Ma'mun Post Office today resumed international telephone service to the citizens.

Nasr Rashid Fulayyih, director of the Baghdad Central Post Office, told INA that new booths were installed to be used by citizens to contact all countries through 12 direct lines prepared for that purpose. [passage omitted]

Iraqi Airways Domestic Flights Resume

JN1601105492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0850 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Text] Baghdad, 16 Jan (INA)—Iraqi Airways has begun operating routine domestic flights as of today. The airline's director general told INA that a plane carrying 33 passengers took off at 0800 today from al-Muthanna airport and headed for al-Basrah. Iraqi Airways flights ceased for a year due to the sinful U.S.- Zionist-Atlantic aggression against Iraq.

Foreign Minister Alleges U-2 Activity Over Iraq

JN2001170492 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1415 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] New York, 20 Jan (INA)—Iraq has told the United Nations of the continued violation of its airspace by a U.S. U-2 spy aircraft under the pretext of conducting aerial surveys and reconnaissance on behalf of the UN Special Committee.

In a letter to the UN secretary general yesterday, Foreign Minister Ahmad Husayn [Khudayyir] said that on 12 January the U.S. plane entered Iraqi airspace from Saudi territory. It flew over Iraqi cities and villages for three hours and 45 minutes before leaving toward Saudi airspace.

Persisting in its espionage and provocation mission, the plane, originating from Saudi territory, entered Iraqi airspace once again on 15 January, the letter says. The plane flew over wide areas of Iraq for about four hours before leaving in the direction of Saudi Arabia.

The letter says that these 24th and 25th violations constitute an escalation of the use of this spy plane, whose average flights over Iraqi territory are one every 48 hours. The violations also prove that the purpose is not to serve the United Nations and its special committee but rather to serve objectives far removed from the UN Charter and principles.

In conclusion, the foreign minister's letter emphasizes Iraq's denunciation and condemnation of these new violations of Iraqi airspace. It urges the international organization to stop these practices and violations that are perpetrated in its name, for they jeopardize the credibility of this organization and give ill-intentioned parties a chance to use the United Nations, its flag, and charter to commit aggression against and threaten the independence and territorial sovereignty of a UN member state.

Writer Urges Revealing of War Secrets, Casualties

JN1901100092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0915 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] Baghdad, 19 Jan (INA)—A writer and political analyst has called for publishing all the secrets related to the Mother of Battles now that one year has passed since the U.S. crime of aggression against Iraq.

In an article published in today's BABIL [AL-JUMHURIYAH Chief Editor] Sa'd al-Bazzaz writes: One year after the epic, people are waiting for someone to reveal to them the secrets related to the tank battle which took place hours before U.S. President Bush requested a cease-fire. He wonders: Does history not have a right to see the publication of the true figures of those killed on the side of the Americans and their allies and the number of prisoners taken by the Iraqi troops?

He adds: What now prevents anyone from talking about the secrets of the trap which Moscow set for us with all its details, motives, and results and the collusion of the "former Soviets" in a major deception conspiracy against Iraq. It may also be appropriate to talk about the concerns resulting from the threat made by the Americans and the British to use nuclear weapons against Iraq.

The political writer Sa'd al-Bazzaz says: The Iraqis have enough information and secrets to enable them to be the most qualified to tell the facts about what had happened. The enemy knows the secrets, but it is not in its interest to reveal them.

He adds: By publishing these secrets the Iraqis will give history the true story, unlike the false stories reported in the scores of books which were published in Washington, London, and Paris in the past year and a half [as published].

He points out that politicians, military people, journalists, and historians have reported the events from the West's point of view and in a manner that serves its interests and supports its pretexts to launch the aggression against Iraq. He says: When Iraqi writers make this testimony to history, we will see how great was Iraq's victory and perseverance, and we will do justice to ourselves, the leadership, and the Army.

Doctor Claims Radiation Leakage Affects 60,000

NC1801170492 (Clandestine) Voice of the Iraqi People in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Jan 92

[Text] German doctor (Sikura Porak) has said that the disease currently sweeping Iraq is a result of nuclear and chemical leakage from destroyed military installations.

The doctor, who inspected the health situation in Iraq, has discussed what he saw and diagnosed it as an unknown sickness causing large skin tumors and quickly killing those it infects. He adds that the number of people suffering from this disease since the Gulf war erupted could be between 60,000 and 140,000. Citizens have nicknamed it Saddam's Disease.

Ba'th Party Sends Letter to Saddam Husayn

JN1601092992 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1925 GMT 16 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 15 Jan (INA)—The leadership of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party sent a letter to President Saddam Husayn, chairman of the Revolution Command Council, on the occasion of the issuance of Political Parties Law No. 30 of 1991 and the discussion of Article 31 of this law, which asks existing parties to readjust their situations accordingly.

The letter reviews the emergence of the party in Iraq at the end of the forties and early fifties. It also notes its underground political activity, for the authorities at that time did not allow it or any other nationalist force to operate in public.

The letter reviews the hard circumstances experienced by the party throughout its past struggle against colonialism and its efforts to expand the base of political participation in running the country since the 8 February Revolution. It reviews the conspiracies against the party and its deprivation of any form of public activity and free expression. [passage omitted]

The letter says: Although the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party was the only political and ideological party that led and accomplished the 17-30 July Revolution, it nevertheless expressed its genuine desire to expand the foundation of participation in running the country's affairs. It included representatives of political parties and forces [word indistinct] in the government formed after the uprising of 30 July 1968. It released political prisoners and detainees and granted them a general amnesty. The party also permitted the publication of several political newspapers for a number of political parties and forces. In addition, it opened a dialogue with other political parties and forces that existed in the country at the time, allowing [word indistinct] representatives to join the government. [passage omitted]

The letter emphasizes that the political system adopted by the party after the 17-30 July 1968 Revolution laid down the foundations for parliamentary life in Iraq by legislating National Assembly Law No. 55 of 1980. To date three parliamentary elections have been held by direct secret ballot, and there always have existed a significant number of National Assembly members not affiliated with the Ba'th Party.

The letter also notes the achievement of the autonomy law for our Kurdish people for the first time in Iraq's history. The autonomy was implemented in accordance with Law No. 33 of 1974. So far three elections to the Legislative Council of the Kurdistan Autonomous Region have been held by direct secret ballot. [passage omitted]

Concluding, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party's letter emphasizes that the party adheres to the contents and provisions of Political Parties Law No. 30 of 1991. It pledges to work persistently to make the experience of establishing the rules and institutions of the constitutional legitimacy a success.

Reports on Popular World Islamic Conference

Opens 17 Jan in Baghdad

JN1701163292 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] [No dateline as received] Sponsored by his excellency President Saddam Husayn, the Fifth Popular World Islamic Conference got under way in Baghdad this afternoon, under the slogan of the blessed Koranic verse: O ye who believe, persevere in patience and constancy, vie in such perseverance; strengthen each other; and fear God that ye may prosper.

'Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council, gave a speech on behalf of his excellency President Saddam Husayn. He began by conveying greetings from his excellency to the participants. He said: Iraq will survive with all its weight, history, the arms of its sons, and their hope for the future.

He added: The Mother of Battles will remain the brightest chapter in the modern history of Iraq and the nation, and it will take its place alongside the battles of Badr, Uhud, and al-Yarmuk, the First and Second al-Qadisiyah, and the glories of our fathers and symbols. The banner of God Is Great will remain flying high alongside the banner of our lord Prophet Muhammad Bin-'Abdallah and the banners of his companions and their believer and mujahidin associates.

20 Jan Session

JN2001163692 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1230 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 20 Jan (INA)—Participants in the Popular World Islamic Conference in Baghdad held a morning session today under the chairmanship of Shaykh Yasin 'Umar al-Imam of Sudan and the membership of Shaykh Muhammad al-Kafrawi, preacher of al-Aqsa mosque in Palestine, and Shaykh Ja'far Nasir, preacher and imam of Leningrad mosque in Russia.

Shaykh Muhammad al-Hasnawi from Syria delivered a speech in which he reviewed the implications of the Zionist-imperialist-American aggression against Iraq. With God's help and the determination of the heroic Iraqi mujahidin, he said, the objectives of this alliance will not be fulfilled. [passage omitted]

Trade Minister Muhammad Mahdi Salih, who was hosted by the conferees, reviewed the comprehensive destruction caused by the aggressors, which affected food warehouses throughout Iraq.

He said the Americans, who imposed an economic blockade against Iraq, failed to besiege the Iraqis' will, jihad spirit, and belief in the inevitability of victory against the American and Zionist aggression.

He said the mujahidin of the Trade Ministry managed to repair most of the projects destroyed by the Atlantic-American aggression against Iraq.

The conference also hosted Oil Minister Usamah 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Hiti, who reviewed imperialist and Zionist schemes to control the Arab world's oil, which encompasses 65 percent of world reserves, by containing and controlling some corrupt Arab regimes.

The emergence of Iraq as a regional power, he said, played a major role in making the states of the region observe the minimum level of oil prices—something that alarmed the Zionist circles. They, therefore, pushed the Gulf states, especially Kuwait, to flood the oil market, which negatively affects the development process in Iraq.

The oil minister said the size of destruction to oil installations was very huge. The total direct losses in the oil sector were estimated at $6 billion, as result of attacks on refineries, pumping stations, and other oil facilities.

He stressed that the Iraqi mujahidin, in response to the aggression, managed to operate and rebuild the oil installations that were destroyed or stolen in the chapters of aggression, treason, and treachery. He added that work is continuing to repair some of the oil projects that require experience and high-quality material.

Final Statement Issued

JN2101074092 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2030 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Baghdad, 20 Jan (INA)—The Popular World Islamic Conference strongly condemns the suspect criminal attempts led by the United States and its villain allies, the betrayers of Arabism and Islam, to threaten Iraq's sovereignty, to threaten Iraq's security, and to tear apart the unity of Iraq's people.

In a statement issued today at the end of its meetings, the conference stressed that maintaining and defending the unity of Iraq's land, people, and sovereignty is an Islamic duty that must be performed because Iraq is the fortress of Islamic jihad targeted by the atheist forces.

The statement strongly condemned the UN Security Council resolutions, issued under pressure from the United States and its Atlantic and Zionist allies, which imposed the economic blockade on mujahid Iraq, prevented it from exporting its oil; froze its assets to prevent it from securing food for its people, milk for its children, and medicine for its sick; and also prevented it from importing goods to meet its struggler people's basic needs.

In their final statement, which included 11 resolutions and recommendations, the conferees stressed that it is religiously unlawful, it is a sin, and it is a flagrant aggression for Muslims to besiege their Muslim brothers.

The statement warned Muslims against being afflicted with sedition or a painful punishment, especially since Almighty God demands cooperation on goodness and piety, and prohibits sin and aggression; and since the

Prophet says that Muslims are brothers, and therefore, they must not harm each other, and instructs Muslims to be united.

The following is the text of the conference's final statement:

In light of political and international changes in the Islamic and world arenas in the wake of the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic-Crusader aggression against Iraq, the continuation of the unjust economic blockade, the starving of Iraq's people, and the attempts to deprive it of its will and prevent it from performing its jihad role, and to impose capitulatory solutions on Arabs and Muslims regarding the Palestine question, as well as U.S. hegemony on the nation; and to study the immense dangers and the fateful challenges to the nation, to enlighten the masses against these dangers and challenges, and to mobilize forces to confront them, the General Secretariat of the Popular World Islamic Conference called for holding its fifth conference in the city of peace and jihad, Baghdad, between 12 and 15 Rajab 1412 Hegira, corresponding to 17 and 20 January 1992 under God's saying: O ye who believe! Persevere in patience and constancy; vie in such perseverance; strengthen each other; and fear Allah; that ye may prosper. [Koranic verse]

Under the patronage of mujahid President Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him, more than 500 personalities of the leaders of Islamic action; representatives of Islamic societies, organizations, movements, and parties; and scholars and intellectuals from the Islamic world and Islamic communities throughout the world, participated in this conference.

Over four days of lengthy sessions, the conference participants discussed various issues facing the Islamic nation and mujahid Iraq in particular.

The delegations also listened to several ministers who spoke about the magnitude of the destruction caused by the brutal aggression, and also about the giant efforts made by Iraqis to reconstruct what the evildoers destroyed. Through their field visits, the delegations witnessed these historic accomplishments, which show the great potential of Iraqis, a matter which heartened the conferees and bolstered their faith in the Iraqis' intrinsic ability to surmount the ordeal and rid themselves of all effects of the aggression, regardless of their gravity and enormity, in record time without foreign assistance, despite the extremely unfair blockade.

The conferees made several proposals, recommendations, and plans for Islamic action aimed at promoting the objectives of the conference.

The conference decided to form a committee, comprising participants whose names are listed at the end of the statement, to consider these proposals and recommendations, draft the final statement, and finalize resolutions. In light of all that has been mentioned, the conference unanimously endorsed the following resolutions and recommendations:

First, the nation's solidarity with mujahid Iraq:

Since the aggression against Iraq is tantamount to aggression against the Islamic nation, and since the U.S.-Zionist-Atlantic attempts to break Iraq's might, using all means of treachery and conspiracy, are aimed at humiliating the nation and violating its creed, the conference declares that the Islamic nation's peoples—represented by their Islamic popular leaders—support the heroic Iraqi people and their mujahid leadership. Also, these peoples categorically reject the attempts of the aggressive and infidel countries to disarm Iraq and weaken its mujahid Armed Forces, which are an asset to Islam, and which infuriate its enemies, the Zionists and the forces of arrogance, infidelity, injustice, and hegemony led by the United States, its allies, and its satellites.

Furthermore, the conference condemns the suspect criminal attempts led by the United States and its villain allies, the betrayers of Arabism and Islam, to violate Iraq's sovereignty, to threaten Iraq's security, and to tear apart the unity of Iraq's people.

The conference affirms that maintaining and defending the unity of Iraq's land, people, and sovereignty is an Islamic duty that must be performed because Iraq is the fortress of Islamic jihad targeted by the atheist forces.

Second, lifting the unfair blockade imposed on the Iraqi people:

The conferees strongly condemn the successive Security Council resolutions, the passage of which was secured by the U.S. imperialists, the Western colonialists, and the criminal Zionists to enforce an economic blockade on mujahid Iraq, prevent it from exporting its resources, ban trade with it, freeze its assets, deny it the chance of providing its people with food, its children with milk, and its sick with medicine. These resolutions were also meant to deny Iraq the chance to import basic necessities with a view to starving its people, weakening their will, and preventing them from carrying out their jihad to resurrect the nation, safeguard its rights, vindicate its holy shrines, and consecrate its role in securing a decent life for its sons in accordance with its principles, ideals, and creed.

The conference voices its strong condemnation of the Arab and Islamic regimes' submission and commitment to these unjust resolutions—particularly Iraq's neighboring states—to protect the infidels' interests and entrench their hegemony over the interests of Muslims, against the wishes of their Arab and Islamic peoples.

The conference decides that it is religiously unlawful, it is a sin, and it is a flagrant aggression for Muslims to besiege their Muslim brothers. So, let Muslims beware of being afflicted with sedition or a painful punishment. Almighty God orders us to cooperate on goodness and piety, and to avoid sin and aggression. The Prophet, may God's peace be upon him, also says that Muslims are brothers, and therefore, they must not harm each other, and instructs Muslims to be united. Based on this, the

Muslim must judge his actions by God's laws in his dealing with his Muslim brothers, and not by the laws of the unjust atheists, the enemies of Islam. He must also extend every and any amount of aid to his brothers, particularly during bad times.

Let every Muslim know that his commitment to these unjust resolutions, which were issued by the infidels at the so-called UN Security Council, is considered a declaration of friendship with the infidels. God says in His holy book: Let not the believers take for friends or helpers unbelievers rather than believers. If any do that, they shall have no relation left with Allah. [Koranic verse] This is in addition to the fact that a Muslim's obedience to the infidels and the enemies of Islam in their coercion and repression of his Muslim brothers, will lead him to further loss. God says in His holy book: O ye who believe! If you obey the unbelievers, they will drive you back on your heels, and ye will turn back (from faith) to your own loss. God also says: And incline not to those who do wrong, or the fire will touch you; and ye have no protectors other than Allah, nor shall ye be helped. [Koranic verses]

Proceeding from this genuine Islamic principle:

1. The conference calls on all the Islamic states, particularly Iraq's neighbors, to break the unjust blockade, open their borders, and to deal fraternally with Iraq in expression of their commitment to Islam and affiliation with this Islamic nation, and in response to the demands of their peoples who reject the blockade completely.

2. The conference calls on the Arab and Islamic states to unfreeze Iraq's assets in Arab and Islamic banks immediately.

3. It calls on all Islamic societies, committees, organizations, and parties, the nation's prominent scholars, and the Islamic masses to exert the maximum amount of pressure on their governments and the decisionmakers in their countries to violate this blockade by trading with Iraq.

4. Besides, the conference urges the chambers of commerce and industry in Arab and Islamic states to break the blockade restrictions and to cooperate with mujahid and patient Iraq in various fields.

5. It also urges Muslims all over the world to rally their potentials and mobilize their political and media endeavors to enlighten the world public in general, and the Muslim public in particular, regarding this abominable crime which runs counter to heavenly values, humane principles, and human rights. The conference also urges them to put pressure on humanitarian organizations all over the world to make them shoulder their responsibilities and expose the imperialist-Zionist idols led by the United States, as well as the injustice and criminal acts they have been perpetrating against people in Iraq and Palestine in particular, and against mankind in general.

Third, condemning Dakar's conference of disgrace:

The conference strongly condemns Dakar's conference of disgrace and declares that Islam and Muslims have nothing to do with it. This is because it has been proven by facts that this conference conspired against Islam and Muslims at the urging of world Zionism and the U.S. Administration, which harbors malice toward Islam, and also at the behest of the regimes of agentry and subservience. The Dakar conference impudently discarded the consistent Islamic principles, values, and norms which are conducive to the nation's pride, solidarity, and cooperation in a manner that is unprecedented in Islamic history. Instead of vindicating the nation's creed regarding jihad, manliness, solidarity among Muslims, supporting just Islamic causes, and defying the will of the unjust infidels, the Dakar conference reflected servile submission to the evil will of the infidels when it renounced jihad and the Palestine question and stupidly and humiliatingly called for maintaining the unfair and unjust blockade imposed on Iraq and its mujahid and patient people.

Our Islamic conference declares its condemnation of this approach, which contravenes the injunctions of the true Islamic religion. The seriousness entailed in this approach lies in that it legitimizes the attempts of Islam's enemies to impose their hegemony over the Islamic nation's resources. Furthermore, our conference declares that jihad is a prescribed religious duty ordained by Islam, and that no party whatsoever is authorized to suspend it. Suspension of this duty is tantamount to a deactivation of Koranic rulings, and to a rejection of the tradition of the messenger of God, may God's peace and blessings be upon him, which says: Jihad will continue until doomsday. It is unanimously agreed among religious scholars that he who renounces or suspends a well-established religious ruling is an apostate.

Maintaining the boycott of the Muslim Iraqi people and denying them survival requirements is a flagrant violation of the principles of Islam and a manifestation of disobedience of God and His messenger, may God's peace and blessings be upon him.

Consequently, the Islamic conference declares that the so-called Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] in Jeddah has lost the legitimacy of its existence and become a tool in the hands of world Zionism and the forces of colonialism and world arrogance. The organization by no means represents Muslims. Therefore, the conference urges Islamic states and governments to boycott this organization, not to attend its meetings, and to withdraw from its institutions.

The representatives of the Islamic peoples, who are meeting at this conference, are the legitimate representatives of the Islamic nation. They call for reinforcing and entrenching the role of this conference so that it will be the legitimate organization which expresses the unity of Islamic peoples, follows up on Islamic issues, and defends them apart from all forms of subservience to and hegemony by the enemies of God.

The conference expresses its regret over the fact that Islamic scholars in the Arabian Peninsula and the Gulf states could not participate in the conference, as a result of their agent governments' terrorism. The conference blesses the positions of their free scholars who, through their right words and sincere, faithful positions, have challenged these corrupt regimes.

Fourth, the new world order:

The conference rejects the call by the United States and its allies for establishing a new world order based on imposing trusteeship on world peoples and states, depriving peoples of their wills, and controlling their resources and destinies. It declares that this order constitutes a return to the hateful colonialist order by exploiting the United Nations and its institutions, including the UN Security Council which has become a tool in the hands of the atheist and hegemonic states, to serve their ugly colonialist purposes. It announces that this order is basically targeted against the oppressed and Islamic peoples to coerce and control them, plunder their wealth, and turn them into a market for their ugly usurious capitalist system.

In light of the collapse of the communist camp; the vanishing of the USSR; and the attempt to place the communist system under the umbrella of the unjust new world order; and after the obstruction of the efficiency of the regional and international organizations, particularly the Nonaligned Movement, the ICO, and the Arab League; and after all these organizations' failure and impotence to confront the conspiracies of this new world order, and their falling under its control and hegemony, the conference calls on the leaders of Arab and Islamic action, the liberation movements and parties which oppose U.S. hegemony, and the world's free men to meet and discuss the establishment a free world front to confront U.S. hegemony and its new world order, which is based on coercing and oppressing peoples and violating their human rights, through the establishment of a world organization to include all the free men in the world, including the representatives of the Islamic peoples who are bound by Islam to reject all forms of the tyrants' hegemony and to organize this rejection on firm bases of justice, right, and support for the oppressed.

Fifth, Iraq and Iran:

The conference decided to form a delegation of Islamic brotherhood from among its members to visit the Islamic Republic of Iran and appeal to it to observe the dictates of Islamic brotherhood and neighborly relations with Iraq, which expressed, before the start of the 30-state aggression, its full readiness to let bygones be bygones and eliminate the root causes of the conflict and dispute. The conference urges the Iranian Government to respond to this appeal through the following:

1. Establishing good-neighbor relations between the two Muslim countries, on the basis of mutual respect and noninterference in internal affairs.

2. Lifting and breaking the blockade imposed on the Iraqi people by the United States, the archsatan, by trading with Iraq, since it is religiously unlawful for a Muslim to lay siege to another Muslim or to starve him.

3. Resolving the issue of prisoners of war and repatriating them, as their continued detention causes them repression and contravenes their religious and humanitarian rights.

4. Returning the trusts, the warplanes and civilian planes put into its custody, in implementation of God's words: "Allah doth command you to render back your trusts to those to whom they are due." [part of Koranic verse]

Sixth, the Palestine question:

The conference affirms its support for the Palestinian people's jihad and also for their blessed revolution, and reiterates their full right to self-determination and independent statehood on their national soil, with holy Jerusalem as its capital, away from terrorism, tyranny, and the policies of capitulation and financial as well as moral blackmail. The conference stands firmly against the liquidation schemes and the suspect settlements which the United States and world Zionism seek to impose on the Palestinian people.

The Popular Islamic Conference affirms that there can neither be justice nor peace under occupation and oppression, as occupation is the antithesis of peace, whereas oppression is the antithesis of justice. Hence, the conference declares that the Palestine question and the liberation of holy Jerusalem shall remain a trust in the hands of each and every Muslim. It is the issue that must take precedence over all other issues and causes, regardless of the sacrifices entailed. Therefore, the conference rejects any global or regional order or structure that does not recognize the Palestinian people's rights, or that attempts to sidestep our historical claims to Palestinian territory. Moreover, the conference condemns Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine.

The conference affirms that Zionism is a racist movement. Hence, it condemns the UN resolution which repealed a previous UN resolution equating Zionism with racism. Furthermore, it condemns the positions of the Arab and Islamic states which insolently supported this unfair resolution.

The conference urges all Muslims to shoulder their Islamic responsibilities vis-a-vis Palestine, and to not content themselves with expressions of support and passive declarations of stands. It also urges Islamic movements to mobilize Muslim peoples for jihad in the name of God to liberate Palestine, the holy lands in their entirety, and to ignore the regimes which stand in the way of achieving this objective.

The conferees denounce the Dakar conference which dropped the divine pillar of jihad from its statements, recommendations, and discussions, thus overlooking an

obligatory Islamic precept, which is clearly defined in religion, and which, in fact, is the peak of Islam.

The conference calls on thinkers and intellectuals in the Islamic world to be cautious and vigilant toward what has taken place and what is taking place in terms of conspiracies in Madrid, Washington, and Moscow, and to enlighten the Islamic masses of the objectives of these negotiations which are aimed at relinquishing the Muslims' central cause: namely, the issue of Palestine and holy Jerusalem.

Seventh, the Islamic nation's funds:

What is painful, and what instills bitterness and disgust in Muslims, is to see the nation's funds and huge wealth invested to serve the enemies of the nation and to kill its sons. Among the regrettable phenomena is to see thousands of people starve to death in many Islamic countries at a time when billions of dollars are being spent from the treasury of the country of the two holy mosques to finance the 30-state aggression against the Muslim Iraqi people, to house Jewish emigrants in the occupied Palestinian Arab territories, and to support the collapsing infidel U.S. and Western economies by depositing the Muslims' funds in their banks and financial institutions.

Eighth, the persecution of Arabs and Muslims in Kuwait and Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia]:

1. With great astonishment, the conference condemns the criminal acts perpetrated by the despotic rulers in Kuwait against Palestinians, Jordanians, Sudanese, Iraqis, and all Arab and Muslim residents there. It also condemns the abominable crimes of murder, torture, violation of honor, denial of rights, expulsion, and coercion perpetrated against them as claimed by those who have been unjustly expelled from Kuwait.

2. The conference strongly condemns the measures taken by the Saudi regime against hundreds of thousands of Yemenis and other Muslims, and this regime's determination to deny their funds and rights and to exploit their efforts and possessions without being guilty of any sin other than the fact that they have been true to their religion and God, that they have not accepted disgrace and humiliation from the infidel colonialists, and that they have been true to their religion and nation by supporting Iraq in its brave confrontation of the criminal Zionist and American aggressors, their infidel allies, and their satellites of the despotic rulers in Kuwait and Najd and Hejaz.

The conference calls on the despotic rulers in Kuwait and Najd and Hejaz to stop the premeditated injustice and expulsions which conflict with the simplest humanitarian and Islamic norms and principles. It also calls for compensating these people, for safeguarding their rights, and for returning rights to their owners because they are the most deserving of these rights.

Ninth, Islam is the religion of freedom:

The conference believes that Islam is the religion of freedom, human dignity, and the achievement of justice on earth. Hence, it urges Islamic groups, parties, and states to respect these sublime principles, and to defend them to establish the Islamic community in which each and every individual would enjoy his freedom, and in which his humanity would be respected. This is required to create an alternative model to be contrasted with world colonialist structures.

Consequently, the conference rejects interference by foreign states, foremost among which are the United States and its allies, in the Muslim peoples' will to misrepresent it. Additionally, the conference urges them to wash their hands of Algerian domestic affairs and to halt their threats to the security of the Sudan, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, Pakistan, and all other Muslim peoples.

Tenth, divine law:

The conference affirms that commitment to Islam and its rulings is a prescribed religious duty ordained in the Holy Koran and attested to by the prophetic traditions. Furthermore, the conference asserts that Muslims, regardless of whether they are individuals, groups, or states, must perform this duty, which realizes happiness for the individual, prosperity for the community, and pride and dignity for the nation, particularly the Arabs, who were honored by being asked by God to be the promulgators of the message. It is the eternal mission of Islam which realized and will realize pride and unity for the Arab nation. Likewise, it is the very thing which would make them builders of a pioneering human civilization. Therefore, the conference rejects any artificial animosity between Arabism and Islam, since the glory of the Arabs is a glory for Islam and vice versa.

The conference blesses the Islamic approach expressed by the leaders of mujahid Iraq when they raised the banner of "God is great" and waged their jihad under this banner. The conference appeals to mujahid President Saddam Husayn to forge ahead in this path to realize the Islamic nation's dream of establishing its desired state. Moreover, the conference affirms that the Muslim peoples are rallying around his faithful and mujahid leadership along this blessed path, which is bound to emerge victorious and successful, to win the support of God the Most High.

Eleventh, thanks and a pledge:

The conferees express their immense thanks and gratitude to Iraq for the noble Arab generosity demonstrated by its apparent hospitality and the extreme concern it showed for hosting the conference, and also for the respect and honor accorded to the Islamic delegations. They particularly extend their thanks to His Excellency mujahid President Saddam Husayn for patronizing this blessed Islamic gathering. The conferees pledged to the Almighty God to vindicate Iraq and to make serious contributions toward its reconstruction, using all the scientific, financial, and personal potentials that they possess so that Iraq can remain the rock on which all

objectives of imperialism, colonialism, and racist and criminal Zionism, which seek to humiliate this nation and secure its subservience to them, will be crushed.

The following is the text of the pledge uttered together by the conferees:

"I pledge to the Omniscient God, Lord of the Mighty Throne, to do my best to lift the blockade imposed on the kinfolk in Iraq, and to fight this blockade using my money, my tongue, and my body. Let God be my witness to this."

The conferees decided to send a cable of support and backing to mujahid President Saddam Husayn, may God protect him, vowing to proceed with him along the path of jihad and confrontation until total victory, God willing, is achieved.

Anti-Corruption Committees Formed

JN2101162792 Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 19 Jan 92 p 1

[Text] The cabinet has decided to set up a committee named the Committee To Combat Administrative Corruption in every ministry, AL-JUMHURIYAH has learned. The committees will observe state employees who suddenly become rich, especially those in services departments.

The committees will be tasked with reporting negative administrative conduct and suggesting ways to overcome it, with an eye toward eradicating unhealthy cases and eliminating negative practices by some mean-spirited people.

Ideas presented by some ministries suggested the regular rotation of employees working in the services sector.

NRP for Shamir in Knesset; Tzomet To Abstain

TA2201133392 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has said that within a few days he will know whether the government will be able to function without having to fight for its survival every other week. That is why Tzomet's decision to abstain in the vote of no- confidence next week is not enough, he said.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that the prime minister made these remarks in a meeting with members of the NRP [National Religious Party] Knesset faction; he mentioned June as a possible date for the elections. He added that the good of the country necessitates that the elections be held on schedule and that we get used to this idea.

Mr. Shamir pointed out that the decision to bring the elections forward also depends on the Likud. The NRP members told him they are in favor of upholding this government, but that if this is not possible the NRP will back any proposal he puts forth.

Differing Reports on Settlement Issued

Report by Peace Now Movement

TA2201126992 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1100 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Report by Miryam Herschlag]

[Text] There are fewer Jewish settlers and more extensive construction in the territories and greater government expenditures on settlements than most Israelis believe. Those were the basic messages of Peace Now leaders, at a news conference heavily attended by local and foreign reporters. Peace Now released a report entitled "Deliberate Ambiguity," which charged the government with trying to conceal or mask the extent of its settlement activity in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. Peace Now spokesman 'Amiram Goldblum:

[Begin Goldblum recording] There were about 13,500 units under construction in the occupied territories at the end of 1991, compared to a total of about 20,000 inhabited units in the occupied territories that were constructed during the previous 22 years. [end recording]

Government and settlement leaders usually say there are from 112,000 to 120,000 Jews in the territories. Peace Now says that at the outside there are 99,000, perhaps as low as 89,000. Goldblum said there are thousands of houses already built which are uninhabited. In order to fill these and the new units, he said the government plans to offer generous financial incentives.

In its report, Peace Now printed one page from a six-page internal Housing Ministry document which the groups said outlines long-term plans for 140,000 new housing units throughout the territories. Last year, according to the report, the government spent 2.5 billion shekels, or 2,000 shekels for every family in Israel, on settlements. For 1992, the plans are for another 5,000 housing units in the territories.

[A related report by Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1005 GMT on 22 January adds: "According to the Peace Now report, 25 percent of the construction planned in Israel, some 5,000 housing units, will be conducted in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The government will invest 390 million shekels—this is not yet the final sum—to pave roads in the territories."]

Peace Now insists that its only purpose in publishing its findings is to inform the Israeli public, those now suffering unemployment and poverty. As for possibly harming Israel's chances to get U.S. loan guarantees for immigrant absorption:

[Begin Goldblum recording] We've just heard in the last few days that the Israeli Government itself, the Ministry of Finance, is giving directly information to the U.S. Administration about construction in the occupied territories, and we know that the Americans hold themselves their own surveys, satellite surveys and others, about the construction in the occupied territories. I don't think we can contribute anything to what the Americans know, and they probably know much, much more than we do. [end recording]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 1100 GMT on 22 January reports: "The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza says that Peace Now's report about building in the territories at a time when the U.S. Administration is scheduled to decide about the loan guarantees is an attempt to sabotage the peace talks and the granting of the guarantees. The council adds that the findings are inflated and it wishes they were true."]

Settlers Council Data

TA2301093192 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 Jan 92 p A2

[Report by Nadav Shragay]

[Excerpts] The Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza yesterday published data of its own on the volume of construction in the territories. According to these data, the number of Jewish housing starts in the territories stood at only 900 in May 1989. In November of last year, about 12,000 housing units—an increase of approximately 1,300 percent—were in various stages of construction. The settlement council data show that the Jewish population of the territories now stands at approximately 112,000.

The settlement council information is based on periodic reports from 21 local councils affiliated with it. Each council receives data from settlements within its boundaries, while the settlements' reports are based on population rosters. In large settlements, municipal tax registers are also used in compiling the reports.

According to the settlement council data, about 16,000 new settlers came to live in the territories in 1991. Of these, about 7,700 live in what the settlers term "remote areas" (within the boundaries of the local councils of Shomron, Binyamin, Qiryat Arba', Hebron, Har Hevron, and Hof 'Aza); some 8,300 joined settlements in the periphery of Jerusalem (Ma'ale Adumim, 'Etzyon Bloc, Efrat, Betar, and Giv'at Ze'ev) and the central area (Ari'el, Alfey Menashe, Oranit, and Elqana).

The same data indicate that at present, 66,850 Jews reside in 13 large urban settlements and some 44,000 in 129 small, mostly communal settlements. The "remote areas" population of about 47,000 lives in 113 settlements (an average of 415 persons per settlement), while 65,000 residents of the "metropolitan area" live in 29 settlements (an average of 2,240 per settlement). [passage omitted]

Council	No. of Jews in Jan 1991	No. of Jews in Nov 1991
Qarney Shomron	4,000	4,650
Shomron	11,000	12,400
Binyamin	12,000	13,600
Bet Arye	1,050	1,300
Ma'ale Adumim	15,000	15,750
Qiryat Arba'	5,300	6,250
Hebron	400	575
Alfey Menashe	2,800	3,450
Oranit	2,225	3,100
'Etzyon Bloc	5,200	6,150
Betar	1,800	2,900
Efrat	2,700	3,500
Ma'ale Efrayim	1,500	1,700
Ari'el	9,200	11,150
'Imanu'el	3,500	4,350
Elqana	3,150	3,200
Biq'a	3,500	3,800
Har Hevron	1,750	2,450
Giv'at Ze'ev	5,675	6,850
Megilot	-	700
Hof 'Aza	4,250	4,300
Total	96,000	112,125

Finance Ministry Data on Mobile Homes

TA2201123992 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 22 Jan 92 p A1

[Report by Judy Maltz and Nadav Shragay; all figures as published]

[Text] Some 5,565 trailers and mobile homes have been placed, or are in the process of being placed, in the territories, according to official Finance Ministry data updated to the end of September 1991, which will be published for the first time within the next few days.

The data, compiled by the Central Bureau of Statistics, show that the number of trailers and mobile homes placed in the territories in the past year amounts to over 20 percent of the total number of trailers and mobile homes placed in Israel and beyond the Green Line. All in all, 1,490 trailers and 1,325 mobile homes were brought to the territories from January to September 1991. During the same period, there were 1,350 trailers and 1,600 mobile homes in the process of being installed.

Addressing the Spokesmen's Union earlier this week, Finance Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i said in reply to a question that only "a few dozen" trailers had been brought to the territories. In contrast, the data released by his ministry show that the number of trailers and mobile homes placed in the territories exceeds the number of those placed, or in the process of being placed, in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, and the entire north of Israel.

The 5,565 trailers and mobiles homes are in addition to the 5,435 housing starts, 5,050 apartments in advanced construction stages, and 1,490 apartments whose construction was completed during the first nine months of 1991.

The data, which was compiled at the request of the U.S. Administration, point to a massive growth in the volume of construction in the territories in 1991 compared with the previous two years. Most of the construction in the territories in 1991 was public (part of the Construction and Housing Ministry's building program), whereas most of the construction in 1990 had been private. The data show that the main thrust of the construction in the territories took place in the third quarter of 1991. In July- September 1991, housing starts totaled 3,550, compared with 2,055 in April-June, and 830 in January-March 1991.

Some 3,500 of the 5,000 trailers that, according to plans, will be placed in the settlements by the end of this summer have already been brought to dozens of sites. The trailers are being used by families whose apartments have not been built or completed yet, by immigrants, and as offices and clinics in the settlements. The trailers are being placed by the Construction and Housing Ministry in coordination with the Council of Jewish Settlements in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza and with Amana, Gush Emunim's settlement movement.

Shamir on Need To 'Build and Develop Everywhere'

TA2301053592 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0500 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] Speaking in Hod Hasharon yesterday evening, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said he saw no need to choose between settlements in the territories and U.S. aid. Le'a Zinder reports:

[Zinder] Shamir spoke of the need to develop all of the land of Israel from one end to the other. Our country is

small, said Shamir, but our people is great. He prophesied that in the not too distant future, 10 million Jews would come and live in Israel.

Afterwards, at a brief press conference, the prime minister was asked if he agreed with Finance Minister Moda'i's statement that if given a choice, he would opt for settlements, rather than loan guarantees.

[Begin Shamir recording] I already said that I don't see a choice. It goes together; it could go together. [end recording]

[Zinder] On domestic policy as well, Prime Minister Shamir said he sees no choice between the territories and the rest of the country.

[Begin Shamir recording] Well, it's not a problem of making a choice. For me, the territorial question is a general national problem. We do not distinguish between the various parts of the country. We have to build and develop everywhere. [end recording]

Sharon on Settlements, Autonomy, Guarantees

TA2201163492 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Report by Galya Marom]

[Text] We have to build in the periphery and focus most of our attention there before the situation changes. This was the warning issued today by Construction and Housing Minister Ari'el Sharon in a speech before local council heads. When asked later about his statement, Sharon clarified that he was referring both to a possible rise of the left wing to power—something he does not believe will happen—and the second threat posed by autonomy.

[Begin Sharon recording] Anyone who believes for even one moment that we will be able to continue building in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip if the Palestinians there are given autonomy simply does not know what they are talking about. The minute this is implemented, our entire situation there will change. [end recording]

Minister Sharon revealed that in the 1990-1991 budget year, 15 percent of his ministry's budget was allocated to Judaea, Samaria, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights. This totaled 850 million shekels. Minister Sharon also addressed the allegations made today by the Peace Now movement regarding expenditures in the territories. The minister condemned the phenomenon of what he termed squealing.

[Begin Sharon recording] I cannot find anything at all in these phenomenon, which perhaps could be characterized as sick behavior. This is the worst kind of snitching. The fact that people, sometimes those in prominent positions, engage in this activity pains me and causes me great sorrow. [end recording]

Commenting on the U.S. loan guarantees, Sharon said that construction in the territories will not be affected if the guarantees are not given, because the loans are designed to finance construction for immigrants, who are not being directed to the territories.

Arens: No Compromise on Settlement Principle

TA2101203392 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Interview with Defense Minister Moshe Arens by Hayim Yavin—live]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Yavin] Mr. Arens, will settlement continue even at the cost of guarantees, if the Americans present this as an unequivocal condition?

[Arens] I do not think one should treat this issue hypothetically. I do not know; I doubt that the Americans will make such a clear condition. This will significantly deviate from past U.S. policy, which did not link disagreements—and we did have disagreements on various issues—with the aid extended to us, especially when we talk of the Soviet Jewish immigrants. I do not think the Americans will want to have a policy argument with us at their expense.

[Yavin] Still, if the Americans exert pressure, if they pose this condition, will you be prepared to compromise on the settlements issue?

[Arens] Not on the principle, and I believe the Americans know this.

[Yavin] What about the implementation?

[Arens] Look, first, I cannot conduct the negotiations with you. This is done by our ambassador in Washington. The Americans today know that the Israeli public in Judaea and Samaria is not one of several hundreds or thousands. It is a fait accompli of over 100,000 people that cannot be changed, and the number involved naturally grows; it cannot be stopped.

[Yavin] Let me refer you to what Minister Moda'i said. Do you share his opinion that settlements are more important than guarantees in fact, to the point where he is prepared to carry on with settlement even at the expense of hundreds of thousands of unemployed people?

[Arens] First, I usually do not share Minister Moda'i's views. As you know, he belongs to a different movement, the Party for the Advancement of the Zionist-Liberal Ideology in Israel....

[Yavin, interrupting] You are not opposed to promoting the Zionist idea, I hope.

[Arens] No, but I am opposed to this faction, which seceded from the Likud under very unpleasant circumstances. Therefore, I cannot identify with the way Minister Moda'i expresses himself.

[Yavin] I understand from what you have said that you would be prepared to compromise as far as the implementation of settlements is concerned.

[Arens] Do not understand this at all, please.

[Yavin] Thank you very much, Mr. Defense Minister.

Milo Sees Shamir's 'Quiet Agreement' With U.S.

TA2101113892 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 21 Jan 92 p A1

[Report by Orit Galili]

[Text] "The Likud has proven itself where the peace process is concerned, and it intends to present this proof in the election campaign," said Minister Roni Milo in an interview with HA'ARETZ.

The Likud campaign will focus on the political process, with Foreign Minister David Levi starring prominently in its broadcasts.

According to Milo, the foreign minister is seen as highly committed to the peace initiative and as the one during whose term diplomatic ties with numerous countries were established.

Milo believes that the prime minister will be able to reach a quiet agreement with the Americans on the issue of a settlement freeze.

Asked whether the Americans will believe him, Milo replied: As already manifested, Shamir honors his commitments to the Americans more than those to his coalition partners.

Denies Making Remarks

TA2201201392 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Police Minister Roni Milo declared today that the government rejects freezing the settlements or any compromise on this issue in return for the U.S. loan guarantees for immigrant absorption. Knesset Member Ge'ula Kohen [Tehiya] accused Milo of lying through his teeth, as she put it, on this issue. Our Knesset correspondent Ya'aqov Ahime'ir reports:

[Begin Milo recording] [passage omitted] To make things easier for Knesset Member [MK] Ge'ula Kohen, I would like to say that as for the question of whether these reports originating in the United States that the prime minister does not rule out a compromise with the United States on loan guarantees in return for a commitment not to increase investment in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip over the sums invested last year—the answer is negative. [passage omitted]

As for the statements that MK Kohen referred to and which appeared in an interview in the paper attributed to me, I can only state in the clearest and most unequivocal way that I did not make these statements. The journalist who published the report knows very well that these statements were not made in the interview with her. We are not ready to freeze settlements in Judaea and Samaria or to link this issue in any way whatsoever to the loan guarantees. The guarantees pertain to immigrant absorption and not to settlement in Judaea and Samaria. We have said that the money raised with the aid of the loan guarantees will not be used for settlement activity in Judaea and Samaria. That has always been our position and it remains our position today. [end recording]

Observer Status Only for UN at Moscow Talks

TA2201170492 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1500 GMT 22 Jan 92

[By Moshe Hakohen]

[Text] The Moscow talks, due to open on Tuesday [28 January], have only a skeleton agenda so far: On Tuesday, the heads of the delegations will make speeches. This refers to the foreign ministers of Israel, Jordan, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia; the cosponsors: the U.S. secretary of state and the Russian foreign minister; and representatives of the EC, PRC, Japan, Canada, and Turkey. On Wednesday, the first meetings of the working teams will be held, to deal with the following four issues: water, the environment, regional security and disarmament, and regional economic cooperation. The fifth and very loaded issue of refugees has been dropped from the final invitation sent to the parties, despite the fact that it was included in the original written invitation.

The composition of the working teams has not yet been established, nor was the agenda, timetables, and venues for the consequent talks. The final composition of the participants is not yet known as well. Syria, Lebanon, Algiers, and Yemen have already rejected the invitations to attend the conference. Morocco, Tunisia, and the Gulf states have not yet given their final reply; and the Palestinians are still hesitant.

Foreign Ministry Director General Yosi Hadas, who goes to Moscow Sunday, today briefed correspondents here. He said that Israel does not want this conference to have the nature of an international conference. Therefore, it rejects the demand by UN Secretary General Butrus Ghali that the United Nations be given participant status.

[Begin Hadas recording] All the invitations to the Moscow multilateral talks were based on the invitations to the Madrid conference, where the United Nations had observer status. We are not going to a UN conference. We are not going to an international conference. We have to be careful and stress that this is a regional conference for the promotion of peace between us and our neighbors. [end recording]

The Foreign Ministry director general added that Israel will oppose discussing issues directly related to the bilateral talks with the Arab delegations in Moscow—for example, the distribution of water resources in Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza between Israel and the Palestinians.

[Begin Hadas recording] We can certainly discuss the water issue on the regional level—such as sea water desalination and other issues—but we will obviously not talk about water resources pertaining to us and Syria. This belongs to the bilateral talks. Issues regrading Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza will be raised only in the bilateral talks with the Palestinian part of the Jordanian-Palestinian delegation. [end recording]

Israel has prepared a working paper for the Moscow conference and has already presented it to the cosponsors. The document contains issues for the agenda of the working teams and suggests economic, environmental, and regional projects. So far, Jerusalem has not disclosed the content of the document.

Despite the unclear agenda and the uncertainty regarding the final number of participants and the reciprocal linkage between the Moscow and the bilateral talks with the Arab delegations, Hadas is optimistic:

[Begin Hadas recording] We prepared papers and ideas for the discussion of regional projects in a way that would allow the countries which, for their own reasons, chose not to participate in the talks, to join them when they so choose. There is no doubt that progress on one aspect will positively affect the other part. [end recording]

No Palestinian Refugee Work Team in Moscow

TA2201195192 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1900 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] No work team will be set up to deal with the issue of Palestinian refugees during the Moscow conference scheduled to take place next week. Our Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari reports that at this stage, it has only been agreed to launch the discussions of the work teams entrusted with the issues of arms control, regional economic development, and water and environmental problems. Israel has also proposed establishing work teams on war and epidemics and the development of the Gulf of Elat.

The practical discussions of the work teams will begin only in March. In the work teams, Israel will be represented by Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri, Bank of Israel Governor Ya'aqov Frenkel, Water Commissioner Dan Zazlawsky, and by Dr. Uri Marinov, director general of the Environment Ministry. Israel will be represented on the steering committee by Foreign Ministry Director General Yosef Hadas.

Reportage on Foreign Minister's PRC Visit

WA2201144492

For reportage on the visit to China by David Levi, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs, including reports on his talks with PRC Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, please see the Near East & South Asia section of the 22 January China DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Al-Majali—Washington 'Likely' 4th-Round Venue

JN2301080392 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Jan 92 pp 1, 5

[Text] (PETRA)—The head of the Jordanian delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali Wednesday said he anticipated holding a fourth round of talks in Washington next month. Dr. al-Majali voiced hope that the forthcoming talks will focus on issues of substance included in the agenda of the talks, such as the interpretation of the U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, the 4th Geneva Convention, land, water and settlements.

In an interview with the Jordanian News Agency, PETRA, Dr. al- Majali said the delegation would not accept moving the venue of talks from Washington unless the host country did not want to host it there, or until it became clear that there are genuine and honest intentions to make the talks a success.

Asked about the potential impact of the multilateral talks on the peace process and whether they will address the issues pertaining to the participation of Palestinians from the diaspora, Dr. al-Majali said the Moscow conference has no executive status. He pointed out that Jordan would explain to the conference its concept of peace and said that committees would be formed to define topics of discussion, venues and dates of the meetings.

He stressed that there would be no negotiations nor any normalisation of relations in the Moscow conference, because normalisation cannot be reached without resolving pending issues, such as the Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories, Jewish settlements, and water issues.

Dr. al-Majali said that all Arab parties considered settlements as an obstacle to peace and that even the West views them in the same context. On the representation of Palestinians from the diaspora in the conference, Dr. al-Majali said that that was a problem facing the conference. However, the important thing is to find an equation that would be acceptable to all parties concerned, he added.

Asked whether the United States will put pressure on Israel through the $10 billion loan guarantees issue, Dr. al-Majali said America had throughout the past been supporting the Israeli economy, the Israeli military and Israeli policies because the U.S. is linked with a strategic treaty to Israel. However, the American perspective has now changed, Dr. al-Majali said, and the U.S. administration cannot continue granting loans to Israel to build further settlements, particularly in the occupied Arab territories.

He added that the U.S. strongly condemned the building od settlements in the occupied Arab territories. Anyhow, the U.S. has other political and economic means that it can make use of to stop Israel building of settlements.

Asked to evaluate the peace process so far, Dr. al-Majali said the Madrid conference on Oct. 30 succeeded in highlighting the Palestine problem and bringing it to the attention of the whole world.

Iraq To Export Oil Via al-'Aqabah Port

JN2301120892 Amman AKHBAR AL-USBU' in Arabic 23 Jan 92 p 1

[Unattributed "exclusive" report]

[Text] Amman—AKHBAR AL-USBU' has learned that following intensive consultations between the Jordanian and Iraqi Governments, it has become virtually certain that Iraq will export its oil in the future through Jordan's al-'Aqabah port. An international agreement on this arrangement will be sought in light of the recent Security Council resolution allowing Iraq to export a limited amount of its oil to meet its food and medical needs.

AKHBAR AL-USBU' has also learned that a $2 billion pipeline, extending from the Iraqi border to al-'Aqabah Port, will be constructed with a branch running to the Jordanian Oil Refinery in al-Zarqa'.

The project is believed to be a substitute for Iraqi oil export pipelines via Saudi, Syrian, and Turkish ports. It will turn al- 'Aqabah port into a main center for Iraqi oil exports. Jordan's revenues and benefits for all sectors will be great as a result. Last week, Jordanian and Iraqi technical teams surveyed the area where the pipeline will pass and began preparing drafts and necessary studies to begin implementation of the plan.

As a result of the project, Jordan will dispense with Saudi oil. Jordan has already dispensed with the import of Syrian oil.

Coalition To Be Sued at War Crimes Tribunal

JN2101091592 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 21 Jan 92 p 3

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Sirin Halasah]

[Text] Amman—Jordan will attend a war crimes tribunal on Feb. 29, in New York, and will submit a list of charges against the American-led coalition for war crimes sustained during the Gulf war, a local official said Monday.

Bassam Haddadin, president of the International Jordanian Committee for Investigation of U.S. Crimes in the Middle East, said his committee will add additional charges to the list of the International Commission of Inquiry on U.S. and Allied War Crimes in the Middle East.

"We will submit a copy of charges against the American-led coalition for repercussions Jordan sustained during and after the Gulf war," said Mr. Haddadin, who is also a leftist member of Parliament. "This list will include primarily items of importance such as the illegal closure of the port of al-'Aqabah (ship harassment by allied forces) and bombing of Jordanian truck drivers carrying oil from Iraq among others."

The International Commission of Inquiry on U.S. and Allied War Crimes in the Middle East was established at the height of the Gulf war by former American attorney general Ramsey Clark. Mr. Clark, who visited Iraq during the war, criticised the international media for believing American claims of a "clean war."

Following his departure from Iraq, Mr. Clark vowed to bring to world attention the war crimes committed by the U.S. and its allies against Iraq. Mr. Clark had maintained that the U.S. had violated international law by its excessive use of force against Iraq and had overstepped the limits of U.N. Resolution 661 authorising the use of force to drive Iraq out of Kuwait.

In reply to Mr. Clark's call, local committees in 20 countries around the world were formed. These countries include Jordan, Egypt, Iraq, Morocco, Algeria, Turkey, Italy, France, Greece, Cyprus, Sweden as well as many states in the U.S.. "These committees assisted the international commission by supplying it with proofs, information and eyewitnesses to collaborate the 19 charges directed against the U.S. and its Gulf war allies," Mr. Haddadin said.

The local committees were formed under the auspices of the international commission with the presence of representatives from the commission.

In Jordan, Mr. Haddadin said, the committee groups a number of parliamentarians and political observers as well as local reporters. He added that the first session was a closed meeting in reply to a directive from the government.

The war crimes tribunal will be the final stage of a series of hearings that have gathered testimony from the 20 countries over the past 8 months. A panel of international judges will preside over the tribunal scheduled to start at the end of February. Following the tribunal sessions, the charges will be transferred to an international court.

Mr. Haddadin said he hoped that the tribunal sessions will be able to score a "political victory" echoeing his doubts about American compliance with any other form of international law. He stressed that their (the tribunal's) work is aimed against the U.S. Administration, which "manipulated" its people through the media and campaigned for a war against Iraq.

"Our first aim is to reveal the truth about the inhumane and undemocratic actions of a country (the U.S.) that claims to uphold human rights and democracy," Mr. Haddadin said. "We will keep trying until we unveil America's ugly face."

Accords Reached With Libya on Trade, Other Fields

JN2001155492 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Meetings of the Joint Jordanian-Libyan Committee were concluded in Amman today. The minutes of the committee meetings, as well as four agreements, and two executive programs were signed at the Ministry of Industry and Trade. They were signed on the Jordanian side by Dr. 'Abdallah al-Nusur, minister of industry and trade. For Libya, they were signed by Dr. Ibrahim Abu-Khazzam, secretary of the General People's Committee for Higher Education.

Marwan 'Awad, secretary general of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, spoke to our correspondent on the agreements signed and the meeting minutes. [Begin recording] [Unidentified reporter] What is the content of the agreements signed with the Libyans today?

['Awad] The official agreements reached with the Libyan brothers were signed today. Four agreements, as well as two executive programs, were signed. One agreement concerns vocational training and the launching of vocational training centers. There is another agreement on commercial maritime transportation. There is a third trade and economic agreement. The last agreement concerns cooperation in tourism. Additionally, an executive program on media and cultural cooperation was signed, not to mention another executive program on cooperation in the fields of education, higher education, and scientific research. Indeed, these agreements cover various aspects of cooperation, some of which already existed. These agreements also provide for enhanced bilateral cooperation in these six fields.

[Reporter] Regarding bilateral trade cooperation, has an agreement been reached on the volume of this cooperation?

['Awad] The volume of bilateral trade was left open. Trade transactions will be paid for in accordance with free trade agreements. However, the agreements left ample room for the possible conclusion of barter agreements and equitable deals among various trade sectors in the two countries. Consequently, these agreements almost covered all that could encourage and enhance this cooperation. Moreover, it was also agreed that the two central banks in the two fraternal countries will be empowered to conclude bilateral arrangements for financing trade transactions through agreements the two sides could conclude.

[Reporter] The four agreements signed were the result of various meetings held between the two sides. Would you please tell us about the most important provisions contained in the meeting minutes?

['Awad] The meeting minutes were comprehensive and extensive in nature. They are the result of the efforts made over the past five days. The minutes covered various aspects of bilateral cooperation. They addressed the issues of trade exchange, the launching of trade exhibitions and centers, and the appointment of commercial attaches in the two countries. Additionally, the minutes provide for industrial cooperation. They stipulate that there will be bilateral coordination and cooperation in the industrial field. They also call for cooperation in efforts aimed at finding alternative sources of energy. The minutes also stipulate that there will be bilateral cooperation in the fields related to production

requirements. Also, it was agreed that the two countries will exchange expertise in the field of launching industrial estates and domestic industries.

The minutes dealt with cooperation in the fields of health, media, movement of persons, and residence. Furthermore, we managed to initiate efforts on potential agreements that could cover many fields. These efforts will be considered by the preparatory committee to pave the way for submitting studies on them to the joint committee in its next meeting. These fields will be the following: insurance and reinsurance, encouraging investment, investment guarantees, the prevention of double taxation, traffic, and other areas. Draft agreements in these fields will initially be considered by the two sides. Then, they will be submitted to the next meeting of the preparatory meeting, which will be held after five months. Afterward, they will be redrafted in final agreements to be submitted to the joint committee to pave the way for finalizing all agreements in all the fields that could promote and enhance the fraternal bilateral ties. [end recording]

King Husayn Returns From 'Private Visit' to Oman

JN2201172192 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn returned to the homeland this evening following a private visit to the Sultanate of Brunei and the sisterly Sultanate of Oman.

During his visit, his majesty held talks with His Majesty Hassanal Bolkiah, the sultan of Brunei, and Qabus Bin-Sa'id, the sultan of Oman. [passage omitted]

Editorial Hails King's Trip

JN2301091992 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 Jan 92 pp 1, 16

[Editorial: "A Pioneering Role and Ceaseless Endeavor"]

[Text] The visit made by His Majesty King Husayn to the Sultanate of Oman and his meeting with his brother, His Majesty Sultan Qabus, reflect the desire by the two fraternal countries to entrench the strong ties of amity, fraternity, and friendship between Jordan and Oman and their two peoples.

His Majesty King Husayn's visit to Oman is an important event in light of the current condition of inter-Arab relations and the fateful challenges which are still facing this nation, especially since we as Arabs are still experiencing the consequences of the Gulf crisis and together face the option of peace, which must be faced collectively and united to ensure that this option will yield the desired fruit.

At an early stage, Jordan realized the need to restore unity to the Arab ranks and rebuild Arab solidarity on more solid and effective bases, in light of the lessons that accompanied the Gulf crisis and the many lessons which followed it, and which continue to cast their shadow on inter-Arab relations.

From here stems the importance of the visit made by His Majesty King Husayn to Oman, the prominent Gulf state and member of the group of Gulf states, which were the most affected by the results and repercussions of the crisis that broke out one year ago. That is why we view with hope and confidence the results of this visit, which has bolstered the existing understanding between Jordan and Oman.

The determination of Jordan, which considers itself a champion of solidarity and a bridge for contacts and understanding among the Arab brothers, is as strong and relentless as ever. It seeks to continue serious endeavors and exert every sincere effort to bypass the post-Gulf War phase and contain its various consequences, because this will help bolster the Arab position in the peace negotiations and activate the Arab nation's energies, and this will put them in the service of the required pan-Arab position.

In the face of all this, the ceaseless efforts made by His Majesty King Husayn to restore Arab solidarity reflect a historic position that will continue to receive the admiration, respect, and gratitude of all Arab brothers who understand things as we do, and who seek to achieve what we seek to achieve in turning the page of the past and opening a new, brighter chapter that is more optimistic about the future of this nation, which in the past has seen harsher and more difficult crises than the one we see today.

Deputies Urge Algeria To Resume Elections

JN2301081292 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 23 Jan 92 pp 1, 5

[By Nirmin Murad]

[Text] Amman—Forty one members of the Lower House of Parliament Wednesday signed a statement calling on Algerian officials to resume the parliamentary elections process and form a national government from those elected but a cabinet minister objected to the method in which the statement was prepared and the wording of the statement describing it as interference in the internal affairs of Algeria.

The strongly-worded one-page statement, according to parliamentary sources, was originally proposed by the Muslim Brotherhood deputies who later collected the signatures of the Democratic Bloc, the Constitution Bloc and independent deputies.

"The government considers this move an interference in the internal affairs of Algeria," acting Information Minister and Minister of Labour 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti told the House.

The statement appealed to "the officials in Algeria to respect the will of the Algerian people and resume

parliamentary elections so that a government can be formed, entirely from the members of the elected house, which would be accepted by the Algerian people out of their own free will."

A verbal clash followed the reading of the statement in the House, when Mr. al-Kabariti voiced the government's objection to the unilateral move by deputies to write a statement and sign it without putting a motion through the House for discussing the issue and hearing the government's opinion on such a statement.

"It is an objection to the procedure adopted in bringing this statement to the House and not an objection to its call for democracy," a government official told the JORDAN TIMES later.

The statement warned against what it said was "bypassing the Algerian constitution" and said this could lead to "obstructing democracy and parliamentary life in Algeria."

"It will also lead to dissipating the unity of the Algerian people, internal clashes and will bring back the military dictatorship to control the destiny of the Muslim Arab Algerian people," the statement added.

Mr. al-Kabariti argued, during Wednesday's House session, that the statement was not binding to the governmrnt since it was not borne out of the proper parliamentary procedure in these cases.

"Statements signed outside the House are not binding to the government and represent the opinions of only those who signed them," Mr. al-Kabariti said.

The statement called on the Algerian army to limit its duties to "defending the land of Algeria and participating in the liberation of the raped Arab and Islamic territories in occupied Palestine and elsewhere."

The Algerian army, under orders from the government, has kept patrol in all parts of Algeria after Islamists gained majority control of the Algerian parliament in the first round of parliamentary elections last month. A state council composed of exiled leaders and military chiefs was installed to prevent the Islamists from taking control of the country to the outrage of democratic movements in Algeria including those which oppose the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS)

Buwayz Asks For U.S. Guarantees on Peace

NC2201132392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz told our radio correspondent in Paris that Lebanon will not go to the multilateral talks until Israel gives us reason to do so and until the United States provides definite guarantees concerning peace.

Minister Buwayz said that the bilateral talks should lead to Israel's withdrawal from the south of Lebanon as well as from the Golan. Buwayz added that the talks should focus on creating a timetable for Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon.

Buwayz held several meetings with the Lebanese delegation to the Washington talks and examined the results of the talks. He will leave Paris for Morocco today to participate in the Jerusalem Committee meetings.

Israel 'Must' Recognize Arab Rights

NC2301084292 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] In a statement to Radio Monte Carlo, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz said that Israel is giving the negotiations the bare minimum and is trying to link the bilateral and multilateral talks. He pointed out that the multilateral negotiations are a way to implement peaceful coexistence with Israel, so how can we establish peace when we are not sure it has been established? [sentence as heard]

In response to a question, Buwayz said: We are not opposed to the principle of multilateral negotiations, the content, or the venue, but we have reservations about the date. We believe that before we enter these negotiations, Israel must recognize Arab rights.

Rshaf Siege Continues; Further Reports

Karami Summons Envoys

NC2201182792 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Lebanon today began diplomatic contacts with influental world capitals and the United Nations to lift the Israeli siege on the southern village of Rshaf. Prime Minister 'Umar Karami today summoned the ambassadors of the United States, Russia, and France for this purpose. He will meet with the ambassadors of Britain and the PRC tomorrow. [passage omitted]

Following his meeting with the three ambassadors, Prime Minister Karami said:

[Begin recording] [Karami] You are aware of the situation in the south and of our people's suffering there due to the Israeli occupation. Today there is the issue of the village of Rshaf, which has been under [word indistinct] siege for more than 20 days. In the past 48 hours, there was another development when Israeli troops occupied this village up to the point where the UN Interim Force in Lebanon is deployed. There they started setting up a fence, or actually barbed wire. We believe this is tantamount to annexation of the village into the border zone. Thus, we had to take action at various levels. At midnight yesterday, I contacted our UN Delegate Khalil Makkawi and instructed him to contact all the Security Council members, to submit a protest, and perhaps consider the possibility of calling for a Security Council meeting to discuss this problem. Today I summoned the ambassadors of the Security Council member states to put them in the picture and to urge them to contact their countries to pressure Israel into withdrawing from this village.

[Unidentified correspondent] [question indistinct]

[Karami] At any rate, we gave instructions to our ambassador and held contacts with the ambassadors here, and we will take all the appropriate measures. What is important is that we want Israel to withdraw from this village and to end its siege.

[Correspondent] [words indistinct] an attempt to pressure Lebanon to [words indistinct]?

[Karami] Anyhow, everyone knows we long have suffered from Israel and that all these practices will not influence our decision or our stands. Israel's execuse is that some resistance operations had been carried out and that some people were killed in and near this village. Once again, we emphasize that as long as there is occupation, our right to resistance is legitimate. [end recording]

Israeli 'Political Message'

NC2201133892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] Minister Nabih Birri has stated that the main objective of the Israeli bombardment of villages in the south is to send political messages to Lebanon to join the multilateral talks and to pressure it to break loose from Syria.

In an interview with the newspaper AL-HAYAH, Birri has disclosed that hundreds of families have left the villages that are being bombarded, particularly Yatar, Kafra, and Haddathah. He noted that Israel had fenced off Rshaf and blocked the roads that link it with the free areas. He added that most of the villages near the occupied border zone are suffering from shortages of food, fuel, and medicine.

Rshaf Delegates Request 'Immediate Assistance'

NC2201133492 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] A delegation from the town of Rshaf has submitted a memorandum to the prime minister, demanding that:

1. The siege on Rshaf be lifted.

2. A UN Interim Force in Lebanon center be established in the town.

3. All detainees be freed.

4. Immediate assistance be provided to the town's inhabitants.

Complaint Lodged With UN

NC2201184592 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] Lebanese Permanent UN Delegate Khalil Makkawi has stated that he has lodged a complaint with the UN General Secretariat, in the form of an urgent letter tantamount to a diplomatic document, pinpointing the positions of the Israeli forces and their numbers, particularly their occupation of part of the southern town of Rshaf. Makkawi expected the complaint to yield positive reaction.

Fadlallah Holding UN Accountable

NC2301072492 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] 'Allamah Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has held the United Nations fully responsible for the Israeli siege of the village of Rshaf. He called on the United Nations to intervene to solve this primarily humanitarian issue.

Fadlallah, who was speaking to a delegation from Rshaf that visited him yesterday, also accused the Lebanese Government of neglecting the problem. He called on the International Committee of the Red Cross to send first aid and supplies to the village.

Israeli Warplanes Overfly South 22 Jan

NC2301064292 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0415 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] Israeli warplanes flew over Sidon and the south at low altitude at approximately 2230 yesterday, drawing Lebanese Army anti-aircraft fire.

Iqlim al-Tuffah Villages Hit

NC2301105392 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Israeli forces bombarded a number of villages in Iqlim al-Tuffah, particularly Mlikh, 'Ayn bu Siwar, Jarju', and Tallat Mlita this morning. The bombardment continues on the Nab' al-Safi river course near al-Luwayzah and the Jabal Safi hills. [passage omitted)

A South Lebanese Army [SLA] patrol came under attack last night while passing near Zummarayya. Immediately thereafter a heavy artillery barrage opened up on Zummarayya and it continued until early this morning.

Israeli 'Combing' Operations Described

NC2301094092 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] Israeli forces this morning carried out a wide-scale combing operations with heavy machine guns and artillery in the forests surrounding their positions in Sujud. The Israeli siege of Rshaf and nearby areas continues.

Al-Rashidiyah Camp Hit By Israeli Gunboat Fire

NC2201132192 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] The al-Rashidiyah camp came under fire from Israeli gunboats at 0300 today.

Implications of Moscow Multilateral Talks Viewed

Salman—Israel Must Show 'Progress'

NC2201161092 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1525 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jan (MENA)—Syrian Information Minister Muhammad Salman has stated that his country will not attend the Middle East multilateral talks unless there is progress and steps are taken to prove that Israel will withdraw from the occupied territories, giving the Palestinians their legitimate right to live on their own land.

In an interview with AL-MUSAWWAR magazine to be published on Friday, the Syrian minister said that Israel did not respond positively to Arab concessions. He noted that Israel asserts and promises progress but then refrains from taking any positive step. Instead, it maneuvers and obstructs the talks, he said.

He added that Israel's daily acts of repression, displacement, and deportation and its continued settlement program prove that it does not want peace; it does not even think of it.

He explained that the Arab delegations' positions in Madrid and Washington showed that they seriously seek peace in the region, while Israel is procrastinating.

The Syrian minister called on other countries, particularly the United States, and the UN Security Council to blame Israel for obstructing the negotiations. He said that they should do so before the third stage of talks, multilateral negotiations, begin.

Salman noted that the U.S. Administration has not yet freed itself from the Jewish lobby's control. He said it exerts pressure inside U.S. agencies to keep Syria on the list of terrorist countries.

Attending Talks Would 'Encourage Enemy'

JN2301073292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Press review]

[Excerpts] In an editorial entitled "The Multilateral Negotiations; A Reward for the Aggressor," AL-BA'TH discusses the essence of the regional peace process. It calls for remembering Israel's acts during the first and second stages of the peace talks, and wonders how the results and fruits of peace in the region can be negotiated, while peace itself has not been achieved.

The paper stresses that the process launched by the United States, and called for by the Soviet Union, was called the peace process with its framework, as announced by the U.S. President, being the exchange of land for peace and the establishment of a just and comprehensive peace on the basis of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The main objective set for the peace process was the implementation of the UN resolutions and the establishment of international legitimacy. Anything else, the paper adds, is either a procedural, secondary, or marginal matter, or a kind of bluffing against the peace process.

AL-BA'TH adds: Up to now, Israel has refused to accept the framework of the peace process and to embark on a serious discussion on bringing about peace. Doesn't this simply mean that Israel does not want the peace process, its framework, or the peace conference, and, consequently, does not want the conference to succeed? The paper wonders: If there is no peace, how can one discuss what comes after peace? How can other issues be discussed between two parties who are still in a state of war?

The paper calls for remembering what Israel did when it turned the venue of the meting into a main problem, and embroiled the conference with pointless procedural issues. It says: The multilateral negotiations were not originally part of the U.S.- Soviet plan; they are purely an Israeli invention. These negotiations are aimed, above all, at encouraging Israel to reject peace, and at rewarding the aggressor, the occupier, the usurper, and the defier of international law and global legitimacy for his aggression, occupation, and defiance—rewards on top of the land and the national rights of the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

On the same subject, and in an article entitled "The Irony of Time," AL-THAWRAH says: Going to the multilateral conference, apart from being a reward for Israel, will encourage the enemy to demand Arab concessions on resources, wealth, and security, in addition to the lands and rights which were not mentioned during the bilateral talks. Through this conference, the Arabs are meant to begin a stage of fragmentation, loss, division, and differences, instead of unified and coordinated positions.

The paper concludes: After all, the conference is a call to the Arabs to give up everything with nothing in return. Will the Arabs realize this before it is too late?

Israeli Said Buying Time

JN2201154792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 22 Jan 92

[From the press review]

[Text] AL-THAWRAH says: Instead of representing a new catalyst for the peace process and instead of being the result of the progress that was hoped for during the rounds of the two previous stages, the Moscow talks have come as a blow to the peace efforts and a cover for the state of depression and failure, which these efforts have produced so far. These talks are also a reward for Israel's continued violations, slanderous provocations, and endless defiance of peace. The Moscow talks are also an early appreciation of the policy of deception, maneuvering, disruption, and torpedoing, and a blessing to the law of the jungle and the policy of aggression, usurpation, expansion, settlement, and slaughtering which

Israel continues to overtly carry out in the occupied Arab territories, including southern Lebanon.

AL-THAWRAH stresses that Israel avoids the discussion of any serious issues or any basic and substantive issues that have to do with the conflict and with the mechanism for a solution and settlement that were defined by the UN resolutions. The paper notes our adherence to our well-known position on the multilateral talks. The paper says: We are certain that these talks are not in the interest of the nation and will never be. They are also not in the interests of the liberation of the territories, and the restoration of rights. We should be careful and alert and not be dragged into Zionist traps.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Our clinging to the land and to pan-Arab rights should not be overshadowed by anything else. The course to regain them is well known and defined. If circumstances prevent us from wresting these rights now, then we should not relinquish them in the future, whatever the circumstance.

In another commentary, AL-THAWRAH says that the Israelis resort to prevarications to gain time so that they may continue their policy of aggression in the occupied Arab territories, expel the owners of these territories, and build as many settlements as possible to absorb more Zionist immigrants from all over the world.

AL-THAWRAH notes that the latest methods used within the framework of the ongoing conspiracy of Zionist settlement building is when the Israeli occupation forces take advantage of the curfew and the imposed military siege and allow the settlers in Ramallah in the occupied West Bank to expand the settlement of Beit Ael and to build 40 new houses there.

AL-THAWRAH concludes: All this clearly shows that Israel intends to continue its occupation of the territories and its settlement activity and disavow the Palestinian people's national rights. This makes the Arab nation, particularly Syria, more determined to accomplish a full Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied Arab territories whether in the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, the Golan, or southern Lebanon and to secure the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people because we in Syria very strongly believe that the homeland and the peoples' rights are not subject to bargaining.

Tel Aviv 'Betting' on Arab Differences

JN1901071992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0445 GMT 19 Jan 92

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial, the newspaper AL-BA'TH talks about Yitzhaq Shamir's assertion that he rejects withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and that the Palestinians should quickly give up the dream of establishing an independent Palestinian state.

The paper says: Shamir's statements emerged at the end of the Washington talks, which failed to achieve any result in the direction of a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

AL-BA'TH asserts that the Israeli position, which rejects any abidance by the UN resolutions and international legitimacy, has caused the peace talks to end without setting a date for their resumption.

AL-BA'TH says: The Washington talks have ended without achieving any result to benefit the peace process. All press reports from Washington have blamed Israel for the failure to achieve any progress.

The paper points out that since the end of the Madrid conference, Israel is trying to make the multilateral talks the principal objective. The paper says: Starting these talks before reaching a logical formula for a just and comprehensive settlement will be in Israel's interest because in such talks Israel may get all it wants without giving anything in return.

AL-BA'TH says: Israel's main concern is to drive a wedge between the positions of the Arab parties directly involved in the peace process. Israel tried many times during the Washington talks to drive such a wedge, but the positions of the Arab parties remained solid and prevented Israel from achieving that. Despite its failure, we believe that Israel is still betting on differences in the Arab position, which appeared solid during the Washington talks. The wager is on attending the multilateral talks.

Israelis 'More Hardline Than Ever'

JN1901160192 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] If the Washington talks have failed to advance the Middle East peace process, then it is because Israel has gone out of its way to thwart every effort to bring about a fair and comprehensive settlement. Fully aware of Israel's intentions—based on past experience—and having repeatedly advised the world as to Israel's notoriously expansionist and aggressive game plan, we are not surprised. Israel will settle for nothing less than everything in the region—land, resources, and influence—leaving the Arabs nothing and leaving them bereft of any control over their fate or even the right to say no. Only under such conditions will peace become acceptable and negotiable for Israel. Fully aware and convinced that Israel will change its ways neither within the context of the conference nor outside it, we have made our stand toward the multilateral talks known to the world. We have made our attendance there subject to the outcome of the second round of the peace talks. This is because we believe that the items to be addressed during the multilateral stage of the talks are the corollary rather than the prelude to peace. Israel's determination to abort the first and second phases of the peace talks means the impossibility of advancing to the multilateral talks.

We have communicated our position to all the Arabs, to the international community, and to all world powers. We have said that if the Arabs move to the multilateral talks under such conditions, then they will be making concessions long cherished by the Zionist enemy. The end result will also be to split the Arab ranks and to undermine the Arab unity forged prior to the start of the peace conference without the Arabs making any gains or the peace process making any headway.

Since we have never been self-contradictory or willing to fudge the issues, we can now say, as His Excellency President Hafiz al- Asad made clear yesterday, that our position on multilateral talks in the Russian capital has not changed. Israel is now more hardline than ever toward the peace process.

Making headway in the second round of the peace talks, including an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab land, is a must for the convocation of the third stage of the peace talks. If the Arabs go to the multilateral stage of the talks short of this progress, then this will amount to yielding further ground to Israel and thus encourage it to cling to the occupied Arab territory.

World public opinion is more than ever willing to show understanding for Arab demands that occupied Arab territory be liberated. This should make us justly proud of what we have achieved and stir us to sustain the struggle to regain our legitimate rights, liberate our land, and attain a fair and comprehensive peace.

Early Israeli Elections 'Mine' To Explode Peace

JN2101172792 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1235 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: If justice, termination of occupation, and elimination of oppression and coercion are among the requirements for peace in the Middle East, then Israel is certainly standing in the trench opposing peace. Over the past months, its rulers sought to abort the peace talks. Through their intransigence, maneuvering, and evasion of substantial issues, they prevented the making of any progress on the road to a just and comprehensive settlement for the Arab-Zionist conflict.

Observers agree that the game of early elections to which the enemy politicians have resorted is nothing but an additional mine that was exploded with the aim of disrupting the peace march. They have more mines in their quivers. They recently began to compete in expressing extremist positions in favor of Judaizing all of the occupied territories, and deporting the Palestinian people. We have not heard one effective voice that wagers on peace and calls on the Israelis to vote for anchoring just peace in the Middle East.

Yitzhaq Shamir leads the extremists. He warned the Palestinian people of more barbaric measures if they did not stop their blessed intifadah against the occupation. Shamir declared that the occupied Arab territories will remain under Zionist control forever, and that no power on earth can force Israel to withdraw from them. Shamir promised the Zionist settlers more support and backing to Judaize the alleged land of Israel. Moshe Arens, for his part, launched a series of threats against the Palestinian Arabs, while Moda'i [Israeli finance minister] said that the occupied territories are much more important to Israel than the U.S. loans and that Israel will reject the loans if they are linked to halting settlements. As for the two resigned ministers, Ne'eman and Ze'evi, they demanded that Shamir immediately withdraw from the peace talks, and officially annex the West Bank and the Gaza Strip to the Zionist entity in order for them to withdraw their resignations. The situation is no better among the ranks of the opposing Labor Party. Shim'on Peres called for stopping the peace talks pending the elections and the formation of a new government. Peres is known to support the annexation of the Golan, and not granting self- determination to the Palestinians. In conclusion, peace is absent from the Israeli elections battle, and extremism prevails. If there are voices in Zionist society that call for peace, fair treatment of Palestinians, and withdrawal from the occupied territories, then they are ineffective. Moreover, we have not heard such voices among the ruling Likud Party or the opposing Labor Party.

Does this mean the collapse of the story of peace? The truth is that the future of peace depends, today and tomorrow, on the seriousness of the international community, and how determined it is to settle the conflict in the Middle East in accordance with Security Council resolutions, and the principles of right and justice. The more the international community, led by the United States, expresses firmness and determination to implement Security Council resolutions, and threatens to take deterrent measures and put an end to the Israeli defiance of international legitimacy, the more the Israelis will wake up from their illusions and realize that they are not above the law and international charters, especially since the world agrees on the need to end their occupation of Arab land and rid the Palestinian people of their crimes and barbaric actions.

No matter how unyielding the Zionists are, they will not be able to challenge the international community, especially when the United States refuses to let the money of U.S. taxpayers lead to settlement plans and be employed for the violation of human rights. The entire world will follow suit with the United States. Then, Israel will find itself completely besieged, and will have no option but to give in to the will of the international community, and to proceed along the road of peace.

It is normal that the Arabs also have a role in besieging Israeli extremism. The more the Arabs unite, adhere to their rights and land, refuse to submit to Zionist blackmail, and consequently rally around Syria's position which rejects bargaining and selling-out, the more the international pressure on the enemy's entity will

increase. Syria's position not to participate in the proposed multilateral talks in Moscow was based on this viewpoint, in order to make Israel understand that there is no room for discussing issues of cooperation in the region without clear commitment to withdrawal from the occupied territories, and recognition of Palestinian rights, and that Israel's language of evasion during the Washington peace talks is no longer effective. Rather, this language threatens to backfire on Israel in terms of destruction and severe harm.

Al-Asad Receives Sudanese Envoy, al-Bashir Message

JN2101170892 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] At 1130 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Hamdi Ibrahim Muhammad, envoy of Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation.

The Sudanese envoy delivered a message to his excellency the president from Lt Gen al-Bashir. His excellency handed him a reply message.

Sudanese Ambassador in Damascus 'Isam al-Rashid Abu-Judayri attended the meeting.

Khaddam Returns From Iran Visit

JN2101193292 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam, and his delegation, this evening returned to Damascus following a two-day visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran. During the visit, Khaddam chaired the Syrian delegation to the meetings of the joint Syrian-Iranian higher committee.

Ba'th Official Meets With Progressive Socialists

JN1901151992 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Excerpt] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today met with the heads of the delegations participating in the meetings of the Permanent Secretariat of the Progressive Socialists Organization in the Mediterranean Basin. The meeting was attended by Comrade Dr. Fawwaz Sayyagh, reserve member of the Ba'th Party National Command, and Dr. (Milod al-Muhazzali), secretary general of the organization.

The talks dealt with the meetings being held by the Permanent Secretariat. The serious discussions taking place at these meetings embody the role of the participating parties and their solidarity to achieve their objectives and that of the organization in making the Mediterranean area a region of love, peace, and equality.

Comrade al-Ahmar affirmed the importance of activating the role of the organization and of increasing its functions to cope with international developments. He said: There are many hotbeds of tension in the Mediterranean basin, the most important of which are the Arab-Zionist conflict and the Palestine question. There is also the ongoing peace process. Israel, however, is the party which is obstructing this process and preventing its progress. He added: This requires a united international position to confront Israeli intransigence, an intransigence which has become exposed to the entire world and which seeks to torpedo the peace process. [passage omitted]

Socialists Issue Statement on Mideast Peace

JN2001153592 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Excerpts] The Permanent Secretariat of the Progressive Socialists Organization in the Mediterranean Basin issued a statement at the conclusion of its expanded periodic meeting yesterday. The statement affirms that achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East constitutes the cornerstone of security and peace in the Mediterranean and consolidates world peace. The statement adds that the importance of peace in the region increases in light of the delicate and difficult circumstances in the whole world. The statement notes that peace in the Middle East sought by the Arabs, who devote all their potentials to achieve it—the peace sought by the nations in the region and the world—is based on international legitimacy and the UN resolutions calling for the withdrawal of the Zionist occupation forces from the occupied territories and achieving the Palestinian Arab people's inalienable and legitimate rights, including their right to repatriation, self-determination, and establishing their independent state, with Jerusalem as its capital, under the leadership of the PLO.

The statement values the Syrian Arab position vis-a-vis the peace talks, based on cooperation and coordination with the involved Arab parties in the peace process. The statement adds that this stand is a guarantee to achieve a just and comprehensive peace and embodies the pan-Arab will to adhere to the Arab nation's legitimate rights.

The conferees denounced the intransigent Israeli position aimed at torpedoing the peace process through procrastination, wasting time, and lack of seriousness and credibility in discussing substantial issues. This intransigent Israeli position is embodied in the continuation of the aggressive and settlement policy represented by bringing in more settlers, building settlements, expelling Arab citizens from their lands, stealing Arab waters, and practicing the ugliest forms of racial segregation against the inhabitants of the occupied Arab territory in Palestine, the Golan, and Southern Lebanon.

The statement calls on the entire world, particularly the United States, to exert efforts and put pressure in order to stop Israeli course and its expansionist, racist, and aggressive policy and to give a momentum to the process

aimed at achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. [passage omitted on solidarity with the Palestinians, Lebanese, and Libyans]

The statement calls for converging efforts to turn the Mediterranean basin into an oasis of peace and security and to lay down the bases of dealing among its nations. The statement also calls for removing all military bases and withdrawing military fleets from the Mediterranean basin. The statements affirms the need to remove the nuclear weapons from the Mediterranean basin. It calls on the international community to exert pressure on Israel to destroy its nuclear weapons and mass destruction weapons and to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. [passage omitted]

Afghanistan

Spokesman Hails Attempt at Intra-Afghan Talks

LD2201174292 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Comments by spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan; place and date of issue not given; read by announcer]

[Text] On hearing about the (?postponement) of the Bonn conference [on Afghanistan], the State of the Republic of Afghanistan expresses its appreciation of the efforts of His Excellency Willy Brandt, ex-chancellor of Germany, to convene a gathering to which the warring sides [words indistinct] were invited. The Afghan Government regards this gathering as being in accordance with [word indistinct] and the policy of the State of the Republic of Afghanistan, and the well-intentioned efforts of the international community. It is also in accord with the five-paragraph statement of the United Nations, which aims to find a solution to the question of Afghanistan through intra-Afghan talks.

Khaleqya: Russian Official Discuss Trade

LD2201102092 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] The press office of the premiership reports that Esteemed Fazl Haq Khaleqyar, the prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, this morning received Petrovich, president of the Russian Federation's Renaissance Fund [name and title as heard], for a working meeting at the prime minister's palace. B.N. Pastukhov, ambassador of the Russian Federation in Kabul, was present. During the meeting talks were conducted on economic and trade cooperation and on the exchange of commodities, especially in the private sector.

Thousands of Rebels in Baghlan Join Government

LD2201104992 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Six armed opposition groups headed by Zaher, known as Postak, Walijan, Golrahman, (?Mansur), and (?Meshal)—numbering 4,100 people—joined the humane and Islamic policy of national reconciliation yesterday in Baghlan Province and stood in the ranks of the defenders of the country and the people. According to the BAKHTAR Military Section's report the groups were welcomed by Major General 'Abdol Baqi, assistant minister of state security, the leadership of Baghlan Province, a large number of elders and clergy, and the peace-loving people of the province, and congratulated them on joining the national reconciliation policy. [passage omitted on ceremonies]. The groups, which were working with Mahaz [National and Islamic Front] and Ettehad [Islamic Alliance for the Liberation of Afghanistan] formations, consist of 1,100 armed men, who are armed with light and heavy weapons, surface-to-surface rockets and ammunition.

The BAKHTAR Military Section reports that over the past three days 10,100 men working in seven groups, 2,100 of whom were armed, have given up the futile fighting in the Baghlan Province and come over to the ranks of the defenders of the country and the people. By the joining of those groups with national reconcililation policy, peace and security have been restored to 68 villages in the province.

Jalalabad 'Tense' After Killing of 2 Commanders

BK2001133692 Hong Kong AFP in English 1330 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] ISLAMABAD, Jan 20 (AFP)—Afghanistan's second biggest city of Jalalabad was tense after two top commanders were killed in a factional clash last week, resistance sources said Monday.

Mohmand Khan, chief of the Afghan militia, Thursday shot dead Abdul Shakoor, deputy director of the KHAD secret police and in charge of a vast security belt covering Laghman, Kunar and Jalalabad, the pro-resistance MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] news agency said.

It said the two belonged to the rival Khalq and Parcham factions of the ruling party in the Afghan army.

Khan killed Shakoor for arresting soldiers of Mohmand Khan's militia on charges of alleged corruption and "plunder of national wealth," the agency said.

Shakoor's brother joined by KHAD men then assaulted the military's headquarters at Kama, near Jalalabad, leaving about half a dozen soldiers dead including Khan, MIDIA said.

Another resistance-run news agency, the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP), said 27 militia soldiers were killed in the KHAD operation aimed at arresting Khan.

Mohmand Khan was a key government man who had won the loyalties of several major tribes. His father Firdausi Khan enjoys considerable influence among the Pushtoon tribes residing on both sides of the Pakistan-Afghanistan borders.

The killings have intensified friction in the rival factions and tension has gripped Jalalabad where Khan was buried over the weekend, the agencies said.

Bangladesh

Further on Situation at Burmese Border

Burma Rejects Returning Seized Arms

BK2201061892 Hong Kong AFP in English 0547 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 22 (AFP)—Burma has rejected a request to return seized weapons and pay compensation for four Bangladeshis killed in an attack on a Bangladesh border post last month, THE MORNING SUN newspaper said here Wednesday.

Rangoon's rejection was conveyed to Dhaka's envoy in Burma, Mostafa Farooq Mohammad, by the Burmese Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaw during talks last week, it said.

Government officials here were not immediately available for comment.

Relations between the two countries have deteriorated following an attack on a Bangladesh Rifles border outpost on December 21, which left four Bangladeshis, including a soldier, dead.

Defence sources here said some Burmese were also killed or injured when Bangladeshi troops fired in self-defence.

Rangoon maintains that its troops did not attack the border outpost and says the weapons were seized from insurgents.

The third round of border talks are set to be held on January 28 in Burma and Gyaw is expected to visit Bangladesh sometime in February, Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman told the parliament recently.

Rahman on 'Rumors' of Buildup

BK2101062492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0607 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] Dhaka, Jan 21 (AFP)—Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman has spoken out against spreading rumors on the border situation with Burma amid further reports on the plight of Rohingya Moslems fleeing to Bangladesh.

"I urge...all concerned quarters to refrain from spreading rumours on the border issue" between the two neighbours, the official BSS news agency quoted Rahman as saying late Monday.

Rahman did not elaborate, but his appeal came amid further press reports of a continued Burmese military buildup along the border with Bangladesh and Moslem refugees' accounts of alleged Burmese atrocities in Arakan Province.

The Bengali daily SANGBAD, quoting "border sources," said 300 more Rohingya youths had suffocated to death in Burmese concentration camps Monday where 700 such deaths were reported in previous four days. No official or other confirmation was immediately available.

Rahman said the issue of repatriating the Rohingya refugees would figure prominently in the next round of bilateral border talks set for January 28.

The home and relief ministries are conducting a joint survey of refugees who have crossed into Bangladesh in the last few months, he said. The refugees are receiving food and temporary shelter until they return to Burma, Rahman said.

He also said Burmese Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaw was expected to visit Bangladesh soon although no date had been fixed for the visit. Rahman told parliament earlier that the visit might take place in early February.

The SANGBAD also reported that Burmese troops detained about 3,000 Moslem youths during the past week and crammed them into 10 storehouses in Arakan Province.

Ties between Dhaka and Rangoon have been strained since an alleged attack by Burmese troops on a Bangladeshi Rifles border outpost December 21 in which four Bangladeshis died, including three civilians.

Prime Minister Hosts Visiting Thai Crown Prince

BK1801021892 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in English 0130 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has said Bangladesh was watching with great admiration the role and contribution of the Thai king and the crown prince in achieving economic development and progress of Thailand. She was speaking at dinner hosted by her in honor of the visiting crown prince Maha Wachiralongkon of Thailand in Dhaka yesterday. Begum Zia recalled her visit to Thailand with the then president, Ziaur Rahman, in 1979 and said the warmth and the Thai royal hospitality (?extended) during the visit remained very fresh in my memory.

The crown prince, Maha Wachiralongkon, in his reply said the friendship between Bangladesh and Thailand has now grown and expanded vastly in all the political, economic, technological and cultural areas. He said the growing friendship has enabled the people of two countries to have opportunities to further strengthen their mutual ties.

Foreign Minister A.S.M. Mustafizur Rahman called on the visiting Thai Crown Prince Maha Wachiralongkon at the Korotoa state guest house in Dhaka yesterday evening. The foreign minister said the cooperation between Bangladesh and Thailand [words indistinct] will grow.

India

Envoy to UN Supports Resolution on Libya

BK2201091692 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] India has called for eradicating international terrorism and urged the Security Council to address the

issue within the ambit of international law. Speaking at the UN Security Council after it unanimously adopted a resolution on Libya, the Indian ambassador, Mr. Ghare Khan, said New Delhi with experience of the tragedy of international terrorism extends support to the decision of the council. In this connection, Mr. Ghare Khan referred to the blowing up of Air India's plane on way from Canada to India in 1985 that killed more than 400 people. Mr. Ghare Khan said India believes that determined Security Council action will send out the message that terrorists will not find a safe haven anywhere and will be flushed out and punished for their misdeeds. The Indian ambassador, however, asked for a careful note of the legal implications in an issue of this kind.

PLO's 'Arafat Praises Support for Intifadah

LD2201214192 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Excerpts] Indian President Ramaswamy Venkataraman hosted a dinner in honor of the brother leader Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], head of the state of Palestine, and the delegation accompanying him. The Indian vice president, prime minister, ministers, senior statesmen, and members of the diplomatic corps accredited to New Delhi attended.

The Indian president delivered a speech on the occasion in which he welcomed India's great guest and reaffirmed India's support for the Palestinian people's struggle and glorious intifadah as well as the current peace process. [passage omitted]

The brother president leader, Abu-'Ammar then made a speech in which he reaffirmed that the new developments being witnessed by the Nonaligned Movement do not at all mean that the movement has lost the justification for its existence. He added that India, being one of the founder states of this significant international edifice, possesses the international will to participate in promoting the movement's missions tasks in the service of international legitimacy and of the principle of justice and equality.

The brother leader Abu-'Ammar warned that any peace process in the Middle East is threatened with failure and deadlock as a result of the obstacles and restrictions being imposed by the Israeli Government on the Palestinian delegation's participation and on the entire peace process as a result of the escalation of the occupation's iron-fist policy and the Judaization of Jerusalem.

Here is the text of the speech by brother Abu-'Ammar:

[Passage omitted] Mr. president, esteemed guests: I would like to use this important occasion to reaffirm to you our people's resolve to continue its just struggle and blessed intifadah under the leadership of the PLO in order to achieve its aims and national rights, including its right to return and self- determination and to the establishment of its independent state with its capital, Holy Jerusalem. Your support for our people's struggle and the support of the forces that love freedom, justice and peace in this world strengthen our people's determination to continue in this difficult struggle and brings nearer the hour of victory. [passage omitted]

Your excellency the president, our people highly appreciate the support of friendly India—of its government and people—for our people's struggle and intifadah, and we look with confidence toward the continuation of this support in these difficult, fateful, and decisive circumstances until the realization of just and comprehensive peace and until our people regain their national rights to their independent state, whose capital is Holy Jerusalem. [passage omitted]

Solanki Speaks on Cairo Visit, Ties With Israel

BK1701092892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] India will review its relations with Israel if the ongoing West Asia peace talks yield positive results. The external affairs minister, Mr. Madhavsinh Solanki, said in New Delhi today that the government is closely monitoring the progress of the peace talks and if Israel reaches an understanding with Palestine and the Arabs, it will surely review its relations with Tel Aviv. Talking to reporters on his return from a four-day visit to Cairo, the minister said the issue of recognition of Israel by India did not figure in his discussions with the Egyptian leaders. Replying to a question, Mr. Solanki said there is no change in India's stand that Israel must vacate all Arab territories which it has illegally occupied.

Describing his talks with the Egyptian president, Husni Mubarak, and others as very fruitful, the minister said the two countries decided to work together in the Nonaligned Movement and other forums to find solution to problems facing the world.

On the economic front, the two sides agreed to step up bilateral trade from the present low level of $130 million to about $400 million in three years. An India Cultural Center has also been established in Cairo.

The external affairs minister replied in the negative when asked whether the stand taken by the Islamic Conference Organization [ICO] on the Kashmir issue was discussed during his talks with Egyptian leaders. Mr. Solanki said ICO has no locus standi with regard to discussions on Kashmir.

Mr. Solanki also said the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, will attend the summit meeting of the UN Security Council to be held on the 30th of this month. He said a summit meeting of the troika group of the G-15 countries is also likely to be held a day before the Security Council meeting. The group comprises Venezuela, Senegal, and India.

BJP March Participants Attacked in Punjab

BK2301120792 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1135 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] Latest reports say that three persons were killed and 18 injured when militants attacked the advance party of the Bharatiya Janata Party's Ekta Yatra [BJP's unity march] in Punjab. The attack on the convoy of buses took place near village Mehta on the Phagwara-Jullundur National Highway. The buses were coming from Mathura. A BJP MLA [member of legislative assembly] from Uttar Pradesh, Mr. Kishori Shah, was leading the group which was on its way to Jammu. Reports say that a number of militants forced one of the buses to stop at gun point and fired indiscriminately. Those injured seriously have been taken to Ludhiana and others admitted to hospitals at Phagwara and Jullundur. Security forces have fanned out and a massive manhunt has been launched.

The BJP president, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, who left Chandigarh this morning was way behind when the attack took place. Dr. Joshi was informed about the incident on reaching Ludhiana. Reports say an alert has been sounded in Jammu region following the attack in Punjab. The state authorities have requisitioned several companies of the BSF [Border Security Force] to augment the existing strength. The Army is standing by to provide security for the yatra. A UNI report says that the national executive of the BJP will meet in Jammu tomorrow to discuss all proposals mooted by the government regarding the Ekta Yatra. The party secretary, Mr. J.P. Mathur, said the meeting will take place after the yatra reaches Jammu.

The BJP leader, Mr. L.K. Advani, has expressed the willingness of the party to prune the size of the Ekta Yatra to Srinagar to hoist the national flag on Republic Day. In a statement in New Delhi today, he said the BJP has made it clear to the government on pruning the number of yatris [people taking part in the march]. Expressing shock over the killings at Phagwara today, Mr. Advani said the government cannot escape responsibility for the tragedy. Mr. Advani appealed to the people, particularly those participating in the Yekta Yatra, to remain calm.

The Haryana chief minister, Mr. Bhajan Lal, has condemned the attack on the Ekta Yatra.

BJP Rejects Human Rights Violation Charge

BK2301091492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 23 Jan 92

[Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] president, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi, has emphasized the need for united action against the divisive forces in the country. Addressing a press conference in Chandigarh this morning, he lashed out those who describe the killing of militants as a violation of human rights, but keep silent when innocent persons are killed by them. Dr. Joshi said India should endeavor to create a world opinion against terrorism and also appealed to Pakistan to give up its policy of abetting terrorism in India. He favored establishing full diplomatic relations with Israel.

Rao Appeals for Participation in Punjab Elections

BK1801130892 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] The prime minister has appealed to all concerned to participate in the forthcoming Punjab elections. He said a democratically-elected government should be the topmost priority to ensure normalization of situation in the state. Mr. Narasimha Rao was speaking to newsmen on board the aircraft while returning from his one-day visit to Aurangabad in Maharashtra. He said the center can hold talks with an elected government in Punjab for any economic package or for solutions to the existing problems.

Referring to economic policies, the prime minister said everyone will have to make sacrifices to overcome the present tough situation. Earlier, at Aurangabad, Mr. Narasimha Rao participated at a function to felicitate the freedom fighter, educationist and the Marathawada leader, Mr. Govindbhai Shroff, on his 81st birth anniversary. Speaking on the occasion, Mr. Narasimha Rao denied that the trade reforms announced by the government were dictated by multinational financial institutions. The prime minister announced that the center will come out soon with a legislation for the statutory development of boards for the Marathawada region. The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan; the Maharashtra chief minister, Mr. Sudhakar Rao Naik; and the Rajya Sabha MP, Dr. Bapu Kalrate; also spoke at the function.

Sikh Leader Urges Participation in Elections

BK2101042092 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 21 Jan 92

[Text] The All India Sikh Conference-Babbar has warned Akali leaders that their decision to boycott the forthcoming elections in Punjab will be the biggest blunder. The general secretary of the group, Mr. Gurcharan Singh Babbar, told PTI [PRESS TRUST OF INDIA] in Pune yesterday that people want a democratic setup in the state. He appealed to all Akali factions to participate in the elections.

More Forces Deployed Along Western Border

BK2301032292 Lahore THE NATION (Islamabad THE NATION) in English 21 Jan 92 p 1

[Text] Umerkot (PPI)—The Government of India has beefed up its security forces along western border of Rajasthan and heavy contingent of the border security forces had been deployed all along the Sindh-Rajasthan border.

According to reports reaching from across the border the government of India has already promulgated night curfew along five miles belt of the border and empowered the defence forces to shoot on site anyone found

violaing the dusk to dawn curfew. The Indian government has also banned entry of foreigners and tourists within 35 miles of the border areas.

The Indian government has attributed these steps and restrictions as measures to check narcotics smuggling and disruptive elements activities.

In the meantime the Provincial government has alleged that Indian trained terrorists and disruptionists have entered Sindh for carrying on anti-state activities, including sabotage to destablilise the present democatically elected government.

Iran

Further on Reaction to Algerian Developments

Bendjedid Resignation 'Treachery'

LD1701215292 Tehran IRIB Television Second Program Network in Persian 1515 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Second Friday prayers sermon delivered by Ayatollah 'Ali Meshkini in Qom—live]

[Excerpt] [Meshkini] [Passage omitted] One important current event is the issue of Algeria and its Muslim, uprisen, vigilant, and faithful nation, who are about 20-million strong. They have, based on their own will and in accordance with, not against, the law, voted and have won one round of their parliamentary elections. The world has become disturbed and has broken into remarks, comments, and unjust assessments in response. What is that democracy which the world talked about? That is what they did; they went to polling booths, cast their vote, and advanced their aim. What is wrong with today's world that they have to ruin everything after they tried so hard? They annulled it.

Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid committed the greatest act of treachery against his nation with his resignation. With this resignation, Chadli Bendjedid pleased the enemies of Islam, of Muslims, and of his nation. He trampled on his own nation and he violated their rights. He committed an injustice. He is lying when he says that he resigned to serve the nation. That is one of the injustices he has committed.

The council that has been formed, the council for running the country, is in accordance with the wish and will of global arrogance. The council has been formed against Muslims, and it is not even legal from their [the authorities'] own point of view. From a distance, we express our support. I do not know how effective this will be; God, you are our witness. We are in favor of the victory of Muslims and their democracy, and we favor the idea of Muslims gaining control over themselves. We convey our congratulations for the victory that they achieved, and we condemn recent developments. We hope that, God willing, they will have further victories in future.

That is what I wanted to say about this issue. [crowd chants in support] If people study this matter closely, they will see how hateful the face of arrogance has been made over this issue, and they will see how much arrogance lies. They only speak of human rights and so on to their own advantage. [passage omitted]

Embassy in Algiers Denies Aiding FIS

LD1701223592 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] The Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Algiers has strongly denied reports published by some newspapers saying that Iran has given assistance to the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] in Algiers.

The embassy said in a statement delivered to APS today that the Islamic Republic of Iran adopts the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of other countries and that it always respects this principle.

Envoy to Algiers Departs for 'Consultations'

LD2001112792 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1030 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] An informed source in our country's Foreign Ministry explained the reason for the withdrawal of the new Algerian ambassador to Tehran and the latest situation in terms of relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI] and Algeria, in an interview with our correspondent.

He said: The new Algerian ambassador was sent by the previous government and had not officially begun his mission in Tehran.

The informed source expressed his regret over the current situation and the limiting of the [activities of] IRI's embassy, which has in effect meant divesting our ambassador to that country of the right to carry out his obligations. He added: The IRI's ambassador to Algiers has left for Tehran to carry out the necessary consultations and review the latest situation in that country.

Habibi Rejects Claims of 'Interference'

LD2001095392 Tehran IRNA in English 0859 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 20, IRNA—First Vice-President and government spokesman Hasan Habibi Monday refuted recent claims by Algeria's 5-man state committee accusing Iran of interference in Algeria's internal affairs. "Iran's foreign policy is based on non-interference in affairs of other countries. At the same time we will not allow other countries to interfere in our affairs," he told reporters.

Speaking at his weekly press conference, Habibi said the allegations were "mere brawls and fabrications." As in the past "Iran will tolerate them with open-mindedness and give the proper response in good time." Habibi was referring to the Saturday decision of the newly-formed State Council that it has recalled its ambassador from

Tehran and that it will no longer represent Iranian interests in Washington. If Algeria ceases to represent Iranian interests, the Islamic Republic will choose another country for the purpose, Habibi said.

On U.S. cultural campaign to suppress Islam in the Azerbaijan Republic, Habibi said Azeris are Muslims and any attempt to push aside the deeply rooted Islam will prove futile. The Islamic Republic will establish diplomatic and cultural relations with members of Commonwealth of Independent States. "However, we do not intend to interfere in the affairs of other countries. We favour friendly ties with peoples and governments," he said.

On Tehran-Washington financial disputes, under investigation at the International Court of The Hague, Habibi said the dispute was under review for a long time and a significant number of cases have been settled. Tehran has demanded Washington to pay back dlrs. [dollars] 10 billion, paid by the former regime for arms purchase. However, Washington is claiming that the sum is far less, said Habibi.

On fate of the Iranian chartered Cypriot cargo ship, Cape Malias, confiscated by Turkey, Habibi said he had no further information. Last Monday, prosecutor of the National Security Court of Istanbul demanded confiscation of Cape Malias and a five-year sentence for her captain. The ship, carrying arms for Iran was stopped at the Bosphorus Strait on October 22 and a few days later her properties were confiscated temporarily.

On measures to check the soaring prices especially with the shopping for the approaching new Iranian year, March 21, Habibi said the High Economic Council will review the situation and make decisions as not to harm the public.

Commentary Notes Council's 'Illegitimacy'

LD2001163192 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1100 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] According to the latest reports from North Africa, over a week after the Algerian president's resignation the situation in the country remains tense and unstable. The death of a legislative body and the existence of various viewpoints pertaining to the illegitimacy of the Higher State Council have pressured Algerian officials more than anything else.

For various reasons the existing Algerian opposition parties consider the formation of the Higher State Council to be contrary to the country's Constitution. On this basis, they have called for rapid decisions on the formation of a legislative parliament and presidential elections. According to Algerian opposition parties, any decision on changing the election law and the fate of various parties must be made legally by a body that has such a responsibility based on the Constitution. To that end, the leaders of Algerian parties believe that the current efforts of the ruling council toward banning religious parties—which are the most important Algerian opposition parties—are not only illegal but an effort to try to make the illegitimacy of the Higher State Council less important.

According to Algerian journalists, changes in the election law by the Higher State Council under such conditions are similar to changes in laws that one set of supporters use contrary to the norm so as to prevent the victory of the opposing side during a political game in the final race.

If the final race—that is, the second round of elections—were held based on the previous laws, the group that won the preliminary round would achieve final victory.

In any case, according to the majority of opposition leaders in Algeria, the current situation in the country is exceptional, one in which the Higher State Council is facing many difficulties in its correct administration. According to these leaders, due to the existence of various obstacles, the current Algerian authorities have not yet been able to officially announce the state of emergency that is apparently imposed on the country. These officials have tried to gradually reduce the political maneuverability of the country's most important Islamic party through a calculated program. To achieve this very same aim, hundreds of high-ranking members and supporters of Algeria's largest Islamic party have been arrested.

Meanwhile, despite the extensive presence of the military in Algerian cities, no special measures for establishing a state of emergency have yet been officially announced.

Dailies Criticizes Algerian Envoy's Recall

LD2201124592 Tehran IRNA in English 1037 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 22, IRNA—Three morning dailies Wednesday continued to devote their editorials to the Algerian decision to recall its ambassador from Tehran.

'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' termed it as a "hasty act" while 'TEHRAN TIMES' called on the Algerian leaders to exhibit their maturity in foreign policy and 'SALAM' urged respect for the majority vote in Algeria.

The recent Algerian move to recall its ambassador from Tehran was "hasty act intended to shatter the diplomatic friendship between the two countries, but surely it will never hurt the two Muslim nations' warm relations," said the English daily KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL.

Referring to reactions of the countries' mass media towards each other, it wrote, "mass media news and views should never strain ties between Iran and Algeria."

On Algerian media's false propaganda alleging that Iran had financed the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) during the recent Algerian election, it said, "if money could buy

votes, the National Liberation Front (FLN) could have done so and was in a better position to use money to at least gain the same number of votes as the FIS received from the people."

Stressing the existence of profound relations between the two nations and stating that Algeria has been Iran's trusted mediator in different political and economic issues and disputes, it reiterated, "Iran has always valued its political, economic and cultural ties with Algeria."

"The effects of the recent Algerian ruling body's decision...will put a bigger question mark in front of the new ruling power in the minds of Algerians. This is because Iran had nothing to do with the recent voting procedure in Algeria which is a reality recognized by all throughout the world."

The other English daily TEHRAN TIMES regretted that Iran's relations with Algeria seems to be moving fast towards a critical point which is in contrast with their cordial ties in the past decade.

"Actually the new government in Algeria seems to be trying to conjure up imaginary relations between its internal critical problems and outside sources, which is a largely erroneous and by now antiquated strategem. If the new Algerian leaders are planning to suppress the Muslim nation of Algeria with similar tactics, they should be warned that this is a dangerous game."

It stressed that Iran never intends to interfere in the internal affairs of other countries but favors the democratically expressed views of the Algerian people.

The paper concluded by hoping that the new Algerian leaders will refrain from further hasty reactions and reiterated Iran's reluctance to cut off its ties with Algeria. "Now it is up to the Algerian leaders to exhibit their maturity (or lack of it) in foreign diplomacy."

Also commenting on the Algerian developments, the Persian daily SALAM said that no one or no group has the right to make decisions for the majority of a nation in the name of development, progress, justice, freedom or even religion.

This principle applies to the present rulers of Algeria as well as the FIS, once it takes over power in Algiers.

In other words, all should accept the principle of the people's sovereignty over the country and ruling on the basis of the majority vote, the morning daily said.

Government, Pakistan Set for Nuclear Cooperation

NC1801145292 Beirut AL-DIYAR in Arabic 12 Jan 92 p 5

[Text] The Iraqi-based Iranian opposition group the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] has said that Iran and Pakistan have reached an agreement on the development of nuclear weapons. The pact reportedly calls on Iran to fund the program and Pakistan to provide the expertise.

In a statement, a copy of which was received in Nicosia, the MKO claims that the agreement was signed during a visit by Asif Nawaz, commander of the Pakistani ground forces, to Iran in November.

The statement emphasizes that Iran will fund this nuclear program to the tune of $5 billion. Pakistan will provide the expertise in uranium enrichment.

The statement also said that China will help the two countries produce weapons systems, adding that China has sold weapons worth $5 billion to Iran in the past three years.

The statement said that China and North Korea have helped Iran build ballistic missiles with a range of 300 km. In addition, North Korea reportedly supplied Iran with 170 Scud missiles in October and November.

The MKO statement claims that in September Iran decided to finance the establishment of Islamic regimes in the former Islamic republics of the USSR, notably in Azerbaijan and Tajikistan.

UN Representative Supports Libyan Proposal

NC2201085692 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0430 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] The Islamic Republic of Iran expressed support for Libya's proposal yesterday to refer the complaints lodged by the United States and its Western allies to an international authority.

The deputy secretary of Iran's UN mission stated: On the basis of the 1971 Montreal Convention, Libya is not obligated to hand over its citizens to plaintiff governments. In accordance with its legal and legitimate rights, Libya can charge and sentence defendants at home.

He emphasized that Libya has expressed its willingness to cooperate with the plaintiff governments to investigate the charges and has requested an international Arab judicial inquiry committee.

The deputy secretary denounced all forms of terrorism and said: Iran believes that all illegal activities on passenger flights, regardless of the reasons or circumstances, should be dealt with firmly.

President Bans Use of Anti-U.S. Slogans

TA2101154292 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 20 Jan 92

[Text] According to a directive by the president's office, all armed forces personnel have been ordered not to shout slogans against or insult the United States and other countries at the morning prayer ceremonies in their barracks.

IRNA Denies Anti-U.S. Slogans Dropped

LD2201121792 Tehran IRNA in English 1115 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] Tehran, Jan. 22, IRNA—The ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY (IRNA) Wednesday totally dismissed a Voice of America (VOA) report claiming that the Iranian president has instructed the armed forces personnel to drop the slogan of "Death to America."

VOA in its Persian program Wednesday morning said that President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani of Iran has ordered the armed forces to drop slogans against the U.S. in their flag hoisting ceremonies. It attributed the report to IRNA without giving any date.

However, the English programs of VOA have not broadcast this specific report.

IRNA has dispatched no report to this effect and thus categorically dismisses the allegation. Last Monday too, VOA distorted the statements of Vice-President Hasan Habibi on the recent developments in Algeria.

Talks on Egyptian Trade Ties Under Way

LD1701210192 Tehran IRNA in English 1450 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] Abu Dhabi (UAE) [United Arab Emirates], Jan. 17, IRNA—The Abu Dhabi based daily AL-ITTIHAD today reported that Iran and Egypt are to establish economic and commercial relations.

AL-ITTIHAD, quoting an unnamed Egyptian economic source, said preliminary talks have already started between the two countries on mutual economic cooperation.

It also quoted its source as saying that a top level Egyptian economic delegation is to arrive in Iran within the next week for talks on setting up exclusive exhibitions in Tehran and Cairo by the two countries to display their products.

It said the Cairo-based Irano-Egyptian Bank, in an effort to revitalize Tehran-Cairo mutual economic and trade ties, has announced readiness to finance agreements to be reached by the two countries.

Border Crossing With Turkmenia Reopens

LD1701185992 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Report by unidentified central news unit correspondent from Gorgan]

[Text] With the recitation of some verses from the Holy Koran, the border crossing between Iran and the Republic of Turkmenia was reopened after 70 years and made officially operational today in the presence of Iranian Foreign Minister Velayati and President of Turkmenia Niazov. This took place in the (Incheborun) Bridge border district in Mazandaran Province.

A meeting in the transit hall of the (Incheborun) Bridge district in the presence of Velayati, Niazov, and officials from the two countries emphasized the need for promoting economic, commercial, and cultural cooperation and strengthening bilateral relations.

Niazov was interviewed by a central news unit correspondent. He remarked on the significance of this border reopening between Iran and Turkmenia and its impact on the growth of political, economic, and cultural ties between the two countries. He said: We are extremely happy about Mr. Velayati's visit to Turkmenia. Taking advantage of this joyful opportunity, I would like to convey the warm and sincere greetings of Turkmenia's Muslims to Iranian Muslims and President Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

In conclusion, having wished the Iranian nation success, Mr. Niazov also wished for the growth and development of the two republics under the unity of word and a peaceful life.

In an interview with a central news unit correspondent, Mr. Velayati termed the reopening of the border crossing between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkmenia as highly significant and a practical sign of the positive relations between the two countries. He said: The visit by the president of Turkmenia and by an official delegation from the Islamic Republic of Iran to this border point indicate the importance that the two countries attach to the expansion and promotion of their relations.

He reiterated: Iran was the first country to open an embassy after Turkmenia's independence. Turkmenia will open its embassy in Tehran, for the first time, in the next few days. He added: Iran and Turkmenia share a number of highly significant factors in terms of religion, history, customs, and traditions, which are catalysts in the continuation of their friendship and the promotion and strengthening of the amicable ties between the two countries.

It is noteworthy that the (Incheborun) Bridge border district customs post located 75 km from Gonbad was constructed in the year from March 1989 to March 1990 at a cost of 100 million rials. From now on the passenger crossings and transits and border exchanges between the two countries, and the sale of the manufactured exports of the province and Turkmenia, will be carried out on the basis of the agreed-upon regulations.

Nepal & Bhutan

Koirala Not Contesting Nepali Congress Presidency

BK1901161492 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] The Nepalese Prime Minister Mr. Girija Prasad Koirala has asserted that a Cabinet reshuffle is the prerogative of the prime minister, and the party leadership should not interfere in the day-to-day functioning of

the government. He said this in an interview with the AIR [All India Radio] correspondent in Kathmandu.

Mr. Koirala also said that he will not stand for the presidency of the ruling Nepali Congress at the party national convention to be held at Jhapa next month. His remarks set at rest speculation in the Nepal capital that he was planning to assume the party presidency also to strengthen his hold.

Pakistan

Israel Reportedly Offers 'Hand of Friendship'

BK2301040992 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 22 Jan 92 pp 1, 5

[By Khamran Khan]

[Text] Karachi—Despite denial by the Foreign Office, reports say that Israel has offered hand of friendship to Pakistan. At the moment senior officials in Islamabad are evaluating this development before making any suggestions to the decision-makers, NIUI [expansion unknown] learnt on authority.

Pakistani officials received this communication from Israeli officials several weeks ago through unofficial channels with the proposal for an unpublicised meeting between the two countries in the United States.

Pakistan does not recognise Israel and it always remained a strong supporter of the Arabs in their territorial disputes with Israel and of an independent state of Palestine.

But, what caused an interest amongst the Pakistani officials is the timing of the Israeli offer coupled with the changing attitude of several Arab nations towards their staunch enemy—Israel.

After a November 1977 visit to Israel by President Anwar al-Sadat, Egypt signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1978 at Camp David in the U.S. leading to restoration of full diplomatic and trade relations between Israel and Egypt.

For making that initiative Egypt was expelled by the Arab League and the Organization of Islamic Conference but in 1985 it was allowed a re-entry in both organisations mainly due to the personal efforts made by late Ziaul Haq.

In January last year when Pakistan and most of the Arab nations formed the U.S. led coalition which fought against PLO backed Iraq to liberate Kuwait. [sentence as received] This coalition also enjoyed tactical support of Israel by not reacting to the Scud missile attacks by Iraq.

Pakistani diplomats dispatched elaborate analyses to the Foreign Office in Islamabad mentioning that out of 46 Muslim members of the UN only 20 countries including Pakistan voted against the repeal of the UN resolution of 1975 equating Zionism with Racism. This resolution also carried very strong remarks about Israeli's sincerity towards peace in the Middle East.

Sources have informed that Pakistan's permanent ambassador to the United Nations and the leading foreign policy expert Jamshed Marker, was "stunned" to see Bahrain, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Tunisia and Egypt abstaining from voting on the resolution at the UN.

Twenty Muslim states, including many who had always voted against Israel at the United Nations did not turn up at the time of voting on December 16.

Pakistani diplomats in the Jordanian capital of Amman are watching with keen interest last week's Jordanian offer of recognising Israel besides restoring full diplomatic relations as part of a comprehensive Middle East peace plan.

Jordan had held long sessions of face to face talks with Israel in Washington. Much before these peace talks Jordan and Israel had maintained secret contacts which each other including several visits by King Husayn to Israel.

In a related development which has forced Pakistan officials to study the recent offer from Israel with "extreme seriousness", China is expected to establish diplomatic relations with Israel in coming weeks. Diplomatic sources in Beijing and Washington have already confirmed a visit to Jerusalem by Chinese Deputy Foreign Minister Yang Fuchang in the last week of December.

Six weeks before Fuchang's visit to Jerusalem, Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Arens visited Beijing as part of Israeli efforts to establish full fledged diplomatic relations with China which is also Pakistan's most trusted friend in the international community.

Pakistani diplomats in interviews with this correspondent in New York last month said that they had full knowledge of the developing Israeli Sino relations, but they gave the impression that Pakistan had no prior knowledge of the Chinese desire to have diplomatic ties with Jerusalem.

Turkey, which is another leading ally of Pakistan, also agreed to upgrade the status of Israeli diplomatic mission last year. Pakistani security officials have long been monitoring close Indo- Israel intelligence cooperation over Pakistan's nuclear capability and military strength. They believe that these ties would be soon established at diplomatic level as India was about to upgrade the status of Israeli diplomatic mission in Bombay, whose purpose had so far remained the monitoring of Jews living in India.

"We have no geo-strategic conflict of interest with Pakistan, when Palestinians are talking to us why cannot we sit together at a dinner table and talk," said Baruch Binah, a spokesman for Israeli Foreign Ministry in a message to Pakistani officials.

Official diplomats at the UN and U.S. in their invitations for luncheon meeting with any Pakistani officials have also echoed the same theme set by Binah in his message for Pakistani officials. Officials in Islamabad have acknowledged that in view of the strong anti-Israeli sentiments in some sections of masses, the present

government is unlikely to take any public stand on this subject which is widely considered "explosive."

It is certian that reaction to these signals from Jerusalem, whether for or against any Pak-Israel contact, will be kept strictly secret until a major break through is made in Middle East peace talks and when there is a favourable political climate in the country for any such contact.

Libyan Delegation Arrives on 4-Day Visit

BK2201164292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] A member of the Revolutionary Command Council of Libya, Mr. 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud, arrived in Islamabad today on a four-day official visit to Pakistan. He is leading a 60-member delegation which includes the Libyan Minister of foreign affairs and industries as well as senior officials. During his stay, the Libyan leader will call on the president and the prime minister.

A foreign office spokesman said in Islamabad today that Pakistan maintains friendly relations with Libya and it is confident that the visit of the Libyan leader Mr. 'Abd al-Salam Jallud would add strength to this relationship. He said Pakistan is party to all international conventions against terrorism and it is fully committed to respecting and adhering to obligations under these conventions.

Army Chief's U.S. Visit Termed 'Very Good'

BK1701105792 Karachi DAWN in English 16 Jan 92 pp 1, 18

[Text] Islamabad, Jan 15—The visit of General Asif Nawaz to United States "has been very good", Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Mohammed Khan disclosed to DAWN on Wednesday.

"We do not have details at the moment, but we know that the visit has been very good", Khan said after a foreign office spokesman had declined to offer any comment on the visit of chief of army staff, saying he had no details.

Gen Asif Nawaz would be joining Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in Paris on his way back home from United States.

Asked when would he be proceeding to Washington for the five- nation talks on Pakistan's regional solution to the nuclear issue, Shaharyar Khan said the visit would take place in early February.

"The visit will not be adversely affected by the Pressler controversy as neither Pakistan, nor United States, take his views very seriously", the foreign secretary said.

"Mr Pressler is just one senator and he is not the real author of the Pressler amendment. He was just passing by, and was asked to sign it, but it became known as the 'Pressler amendment'", he added.

Asked to comment on reports in THE WASHINGTON POST that Pakistan had two nuclear bombs, the foreign secretary said such reports kept on appearing in Western papers.

"They have said that India has 50 bombs, and Mr Pressler does not believe this portion of these stories", the foreign secretary remarked.

Khan Discusses Relations With U.S. Naval Chief

BK2201162092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Jan 92

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan has said the present difficulties in Pakistan-American relations over nuclear issue can be removed to mutual satisfaction if each side objectively analyses and appreciates the constraints and difficulties of the other. He said this during his talks with the U.S. Naval chief, Admiral Frank B. Kelso, in Islamabad today.

The president said Pakistan respects the U.S. laws and it could not grudge the United States the right to interpret them. The president stressed that similarly it should be realized that Pakistan's peaceful nuclear program is a reflection of national consensus arising out of objective need and had to be respected as such. Ghulam Ishaq Khan has said the differences in the viewpoints of the two countries are essentially a difference in their perception. Otherwise, Pakistan's concern with nuclear proliferation is the same as that of the United States. Referring to the proven nuclear capability and the motive to achieve superiority by some countries in the region, the president said Pakistan is strongly determined to safeguard its sovereignty and regional stability and it cannot ignore such a situation. This fact should be borne in mind while taking any biased stand against Pakistan on any issue.

Referring to the close cooperation between the navies of the two countries, Admiral Kelso assured the president that he would continue his efforts to promote friendly ties between the two countries within the purview of the U.S. laws.

During the meeting, situation in the Indian Ocean and the attempts of some countries to achieve superiority in this ocean were discussed. The U.S. naval chief assured the president his government is committed to the policy of keeping open all seas for all the countries.

Later, at a special function, the president conferred the military award Nishan-i-Imtiaz on Admiral Frank B. Kelso in recognition of his efforts to improve the relations between the navies of the two countries.

Khan Meets Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister

BK1901164092 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] The deputy foreign minister of Iran, Mr. Ala-ed-Din Borujerdi, called on President Ghulam Ishaq

Khan in Islamabad today and delivered to him a message from President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. The Iranian president's message is stated to be about ways and means to further promote bilateral cooperation in various fields and speedy implementation of agreements signed during President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's visit to Iran last year. During the meeting, views were exchanged on the Economic Cooperation Organization [ECO] summit to be held in Iran next month. The deputy foreign minister of Iran during his brief visit also held talks with the foreign secretary on bilateral and regional issues and ECO.

UAE President Arrives For Visit

BK1901164292 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 19 Jan 92

[Text] The President of the United Arab Emirates Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan arrived in Rahimyar Khan today from Abu Dhabi by a special plane. The Prime Minister Mr. Mohammad Nawaz Sharif received the distinguished guest at Shaykh Zayid airport.

Sri Lanka

Iranian Delegation Meets Premier, Foreign Minister

BK1701120692 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 17 Jan 92

[Text] The visiting Iranian delegation led by the deputy minister for foreign affairs, 'Ala'ddin Borujerdi, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister D.B. Wijetunge, at Temple Trees in Colombo yesterday. The delegation later called on the minister of foreign affairs, Harold Herath, in Colombo and discussed matters of mutual interest and expanding of cultural and trade relations between the two countries. The two sides agreed to establish cultural links between the two historic cities—Kandy and Esfahan.

The Iranian minister commended Sri Lanka's foreign policy and hailed the president's bold stand on Zionism. Minister Herath briefed the Iranian minister on Sri Lanka's position in the implementation of the Colombo Declaration [of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation]. The Iranian deputy minister also met his counterpart John Amaratunga.

Talks Discuss Trade, Culture

BK1801122892 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Jan 92

[Text] The four-member Iranian delegation led by Deputy Foreign Minister 'Ala'ddin Borujerdi, left Colombo early this morning after a four-day official visit. State Minister for Muslim Religious and Cultural Affairs Alhaj H.M. Azwer and Iranian Ambassador 'Abdorreza Faraji-Rad were present to see the delegation off. Mr. Borujerdi, was here as a special envoy of Iranian President Rafsanjani. During his stay here he delivered a special message to President Ranasinghe Premadasa from the Iranian president who hailed Sri Lankan president for his bold step to vote against the UN resolution on Zionism. Mr. Borujerdi also had a series of discussions with the prime minister, D.B. Wijetunge, and several ministers including A.C.S. Hameed, Harold Herath, A.R. Mansoor, Wijayapala Mendis, State Minister John Amaratunga, and Alhaj H.M. Azwer.

The talks were centered on further expanding of relations, particularly in trade and cultural activities. Iran is the largest buyer of Sri Lanka's tea last year and Sri Lanka purchased 65 percent of the oil requirement from Iran. Iran has shown interest in assisting the national railway extension plan from Batticaloa to Pottuvil. In this connection, the Iranian technical team will arrive in Sri Lanka to have an on-the-spot study of the project.

Borujerdi Ends Visit

BK1801122892 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 18 Jan 92

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